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**United Neighborhood Houses Statement on Mayor Adams' FY 2023 Budget for New York City**

**New York** – April 29, 2022 – In response to Mayor Adams' Fiscal Year 2023 Budget for New York City, [United Neighborhood Houses](#) Executive Director Susan Stamler commented:

Mayor Adams' Executive Budget, which aims to reinvigorate our city's economy, makes investments in several of our sector's issue areas, but lacks key pieces of the puzzle.

It includes a much-needed increase in Summer Rising slots for K-8 students and a historic expansion to the Summer Youth Employment Program—both of which engage young people in positive social, emotional, educational, and skill-building activities—but, it lacks investment in the workers who run these programs. Providers cannot give our city's youth the summer enrichment experience they deserve without the ability to offer competitive compensation to their staff in recognition of the hard work and dedication they bring to their jobs.

The Mayor also announced reductions to family copays for child care programs, which will help more working families access quality care, save money, and create healthy routines. We look forward to working with the Adams Administration to create plans to stabilize and expand child care for all working families.

Unfortunately, the budget leaves out cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) for our city's human services workers—a powerful workforce that runs the life-changing, economy-boosting programs that keep our communities healthy and engaged, yet makes poverty-level wages. The Mayor will need to prioritize this sector with a 5.4% COLA at \$86 million to achieve his desired economic outcomes.

The plan takes steps in the right direction, but more is needed, and fast. We have seen what happens when decisions are made in the eleventh hour. To reach an equitable and viable Executive Budget, the City must commit to additional funding and structural changes, and continue to include CBOs and advocates in the conversation.

**Investing in this sector means investing in a strong economic comeback.**

**United Neighborhood Houses (UNH)** is a policy and social change organization representing 45 neighborhood settlement houses that reach 765,000 New Yorkers from all walks of life. A progressive leader for more than 100 years, UNH is stewarding a new era for New York's settlement house movement. We mobilize our members and their communities to advocate for good public policies and promote strong organizations and practices that keep neighborhoods resilient and thriving for all New Yorkers. UNH leads advocacy and partners with our members on a broad range of issues including civic and community engagement, neighborhood affordability, healthy aging, early childhood education, adult literacy, and youth development. We also provide customized professional development and peer learning to build the skills and leadership capabilities of settlement house staff at all levels. For more information, visit <http://www.unhny.org/>.

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