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

New York – February 17, 2022 – In response to Mayor Eric Adams' Fiscal Year 2023 Preliminary Budget for New York City, [United Neighborhood Houses](#) Executive Director Susan Stamler commented:

“Mayor Adams’ preliminary budget contains several important investments for New York City neighborhoods. The Mayor’s early commitment to fund 100,000 summer jobs for teens and young adults is an important step to help New York City’s youth recover from the pandemic and gain important, career-building skills. To achieve historical SYEP success this summer, UNH and settlement houses look forward to working with Mayor Adams to ensure program implementation reflects what youth want and what providers need. Furthermore, investments in the home delivered meals program will help ensure that the City’s older adults will continue receiving daily meals and check ins, by helping providers meet rising inflation costs.

We are extremely disappointed that the Preliminary Budget takes no steps toward expanding funding for elementary and middle school summer programs. Mayor Adams has said reversing the “summer slide” is a top priority, yet delaying investments after the Preliminary Budget makes it harder for providers to plan for a successful summer. Each additional day providers have to wait for the City’s signal moves us further from our collective goal of ensuring children are safe, engaged, healthy, and prepared for the fall. We urge the Mayor to share information as quickly as possible about program footprint, reimbursement rates, and models so that providers can begin to plan and engage families in a successful summer.

Finally, the Mayor missed an opportunity to support the human services workforce that helps keep our City moving forward. The Mayor must include a cost of living adjustment for human services workers in his Executive Budget, as well as invest in the early childhood education workforce to bring pay parity to support staff and directors.

“Mayor Adams has committed to ‘making decisions that invest in our city and benefit all New Yorkers’ and ‘devoting resources to upstream solutions, not only downstream demands.’ We

urge him to honor these commitments by investing in critical programs that impact the lives of everyone in our city.”

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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