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UNH State Fiscal Year 2017-18 Budget & Policy Priorities **Settlement Houses**

Settlement House Program – Fund at \$4.0 million (\$1.55 million increase)

Funding History:

Executive FY 2017-2018: \$0m

Enacted FY 2016-17: \$2.45m

Enacted FY 2015-16: \$2.45m

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Enacted FY 2009-10: \$7m

Services Funded:

The Settlement House Initiative (SHI) provides flexible funding for innovative community-based child, youth, immigrant and older adult services in settlement houses across the state, including Rochester, Syracuse, and Albany. Services in NYC are provided through the United Neighborhood House (UNH) network of 37 non-profit member agencies that collectively serve over 500,000 New Yorkers annually across the five boroughs. Sample activities and services include:

- A volunteer director overseeing more than 600 unpaid volunteers working with low-income children and older adults, English language learners and mentally ill women in homeless shelters.
- Job training and placement programs for the unemployed.
- A paratransit driver for adult day program serving seniors with dementia and Alzheimer's disease.
- Treatment and counseling services for sexually abused children under the age of five.
- Anti-domestic violence services and counseling for immigrant communities.
- Individualized counseling for youth who struggle in school and are at risk of dropping-out.
- Intake and referral services for immigrant youth requiring medical services, HIV information, mental health counseling, and drug prevention.

Challenge/Opportunity:

The SHI remains one of the few sources of flexible funding for community-based organizations serving their communities. With this support, each settlement house is able to respond to the unique needs of its neighborhoods. At a time of diminishing local, state and federal resources, the Settlement House Initiative is the critical glue that holds together the holistic service model of settlement houses. An investment of \$4 million will allow settlement houses across the state to respond to evolving needs in their communities, and in particular, growing immigrant and older adult populations.

UNH recommendation: Invest \$4 million to allow settlement houses across the State to respond to evolving needs in their communities.