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UNH State Fiscal Year 2019-20 Budget & Policy Priorities **Settlement Houses**

Settlement House Program – The Settlement House Program provides flexible funding for innovative community-based child, youth, immigrant and older adult services in settlement houses across the state, including in Albany, Syracuse, Rochester, Buffalo, Westchester, Utica, and New York City. The majority of these services are provided through United Neighborhood House’s (UNH) membership that includes 40 New York City settlement houses and two upstate affiliate members, who collectively reach more than 765,000 people across all ages through 673 locations – 670 of these in New York City – each year. Sample activities and services include:

- 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,
- Culturally competent anti-domestic violence services and counseling for immigrant communities, and
- Intake and referral services for youth requiring medical services, HIV information, mental health counseling, and drug prevention education.

UNH recommends restoring and baselining FY2019-20 funding and increasing to \$5 million (\$2.55m increase).

Funding History

- Executive FY 2019-20: \$0 million
- Enacted FY 2018-19: \$2.45 million
- Enacted FY 2017-18: \$2.45 million
- ...
- Enacted FY 2009-10: \$7 million

Challenge and Opportunity – The Settlement House Program 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 Program is the critical glue that holds together the holistic service model of settlement houses. An investment of \$5 million will allow settlement houses across the state to respond to evolving needs in their communities.

UNH Recommendation: Invest \$5 million to allow settlement houses across the State to creatively respond to new needs in their communities.

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