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Human Services Council Responds to State Budget Agreement

NEW YORK–The Human Services Council (HSC) today responded to the State budget agreement, which included a 2.84 percent Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for 800,000 nonprofit workers across New York. The agreement requires 1.7% of this total figure to be allocated directly toward eligible workers' salaries.

The sector had called for a 3.2% COLA, which would have appropriately met the workforce's needs.

Human service providers are staffed overwhelmingly by women and people of color. They rely on already-underfunded City and State contracts to provide essential services, including after school programs, senior centers, immigration services, and many others.

Please attribute this statement to **Michelle Jackson, Executive Director of the Human Services Council**:

"Nonprofits continue to strain under enormous demand for their services, and their employees often struggle to get ahead on government-sanctioned, poverty-level wages. This investment, while significant, falls short of the Just Pay essential workers deserve. It also complicates an already overly-confusing and burdensome process that will delay money getting into the pockets of workers.

HSC will work harder than ever to ensure Albany passes critical legislation this session to create a Wage Board. The fight to pass that bill, which will ensure workers pay is no longer used as an annual bargaining tool in Albany, has only just begun."

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About HSC
The Human Services Council of New York, a leading advocate for nonprofits providing human services, works to strengthen the ability of nonprofit agencies to maximize human potential in communities across New York. Nearly 200 nonprofit organizations throughout New York City and State are HSC members. Visit HSC at www.HumanServicesCouncil.org.