



## **HUMAN SERVICES COUNCIL RESPONSE TO STATE BUDGET AGREEMENT**

### ***Betrayal: Gov. Hochul Turns Her Back on Nonprofit Workers, Makes NYS Less Affordable***

NEW YORK — The Human Services Council (HSC) responded to the State budget agreement, which included a 2.6% percent targeted inflationary increase for nonprofits and their 800,000 workers across New York. The sector had called for a 7.8% Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA), which would have only just kept pace with actual inflation and helped stabilize a workforce that continues to leave the nonprofit sector in alarming numbers. Both the Senate and Assembly included this ask in their one-house budgets.

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.

#### **Michelle Jackson, Executive Director of the Human Services Council, responded:**

“Governor Hochul had a clear choice: join NYS, their advocates and the Legislature in supporting a 7.8% cost-of-living adjustment for the human services workforce, or turn her back on the essential workers who keep New York running. She chose the latter. In the face of high inflation, severe workforce shortages, and reckless federal cuts, offering 2.6% isn’t just inadequate – it’s a complete failure of leadership.

“By underfunding a workforce made up largely of women and people of color, the Governor is showing she isn’t focused on an equitable budget, or economic justice, or in fighting for the working families she says her budget is about. Human services workers ARE working families. She’s not showing up when leadership is needed most. Worse, this is remarkably shortsighted, as Gov. Hochul’s other stated priorities rely on the workforce and nonprofits she is underfunding, so her own agenda will suffer from this decision.

“HSC will keep fighting to pass legislation this session to deliver #JustPay for New York’s 800,000 nonprofit workers — because they deserve far better than this.”