



HUMAN SERVICES COUNCIL RESPONDS TO GOVERNOR HOCHUL'S EXECUTIVE BUDGET PROPOSAL

ALBANY – The following statement can be attributed to **Michelle Jackson, Executive Director of the Human Services Council**, in response to Governor Kathy Hochul's Executive Budget proposal, which only includes a 1.7% cost-of-living increase for human services workers in select program areas:

“Human services workers are central to Governor Hochul’s affordability agenda, yet too many of them still cannot afford to live in New York. While we want to say we appreciate the proposed 1.7% cost-of-living adjustment for some program areas in the Executive Budget, we can’t. It fails to meet the needs of frontline workers and the nonprofit providers who employ them, and once again treats the human services sector as a bargaining chip instead of a respected industry.

“An affordability agenda that leaves human service workers struggling to pay rent is not really an affordability agenda at all. If the Governor is truly committed to making New York affordable, she would start by fairly paying the workers and nonprofits with whom the State contracts. This Executive Budget does not do that. We urge the Governor and the Legislature to strengthen the final budget with a meaningful investment in wages, because New York’s care system cannot survive on praise alone.”