

Dear Governor Cuomo and Members of the New York State Legislature:

We, the undersigned faith leaders (clergy, nuns, faith-based justice advocates and outreach and food pantry workers) from across New York State, are united in our support of the Excluded Workers Fund. This fund will provide desperately needed economic assistance to our neighbors who are undocumented and recently released from incarceration.

Excluded workers from Long Island to the Bronx to Syracuse and beyond have been cruelly battered by a year of lost income to themselves and their families. They have struggled to pay rent and medical bills, and to put food on their tables. These workers and their communities have fought extraordinarily high COVID-19 infection rates without health insurance to cover their treatment. Their treatment is at odds with every moral principle we stand for.

Excluded workers do some of the hardest physical and emotional labor in our society, including growing and harvesting our local crops, serving and maintaining our local restaurants, landscaping, and caring for our loved ones. In return, they often are paid poorly and are vulnerable to wage theft and other abuses. If they are laid-off, they do not qualify for Unemployment Insurance, Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, or other sources of income support.

As people of faith, we know these workers by name because they are our congregants, our families, and our neighbors. We worship together, share life together, and we serve as volunteers and guests in food pantries, outreach centers and homeless shelters. And we know that charity alone cannot meet this need.

An Excluded Workers Fund will provide much-needed relief in the form of direct, flat rate monthly cash payments to families, akin to the unemployment benefits other workers have received. Payments must be retroactive to the start of the economic crisis and until the COVID state of emergency is over, and the fund must have flexible application and proof requirements given the urgency of the needs workers face.

To fund excluded workers, provide rent relief, and address other pressing community concerns, we urge the state to pass sweeping taxes on the rich, as detailed by the [Invest in Our New York Act](#). These new, recurring, progressive revenue streams will ward off unnecessary austerity that will only harm working class New Yorkers.

We call upon Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature to create an excluded workers fund, supported by new progressive taxes on the rich. More than nine months of misery have already passed: let us no longer defer excluded workers' hopes for justice.

In gratitude for your attention,

Churches United For Fair Housing
Sacred Heart Church
Saint Lucy / Saint Patrick
All Saints Church
Most Holy Trinity
Oaks Church
Presentation Church
Our Lady of Mercy Church
St Michaels Church

Nigel Pearce
Rabbi Rachel Goldenberg, Malkhut, NYC
Rabbi Michael Feinberg, Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition
Rabbi Barat Ellman
Rabbi Mira Rivera, Romemu, Ammud: Jews of Color Torah Academy, NYC
Rabbi Mia Simring
Rabbi Jonah Geffen, Hunter Hillel, NYC
Rabbi Mackenzie Reynolds
Rabbi Susan Falk
Rabbi Lauren Grabelle Herrmann, SAJ, NYC
Bishop Raymond Rivera, Latino Pastoral Action Center/Sanctuary Church, Bronx
Rev. Dr. Clyde Kuemmerle, Ecclesia Ministries of New York
Rev. Joel A. Gibson, Executive Director, Micah Institute
Rabbi Ellen Lippmann, Rabbi Emerita, Kolot Chayeinu/Voices of Our Lives, NYC
Fr. Luis Barrios, Ph.D., Rector, Holyrood Episcopal Church, Washington Heights
Rev. Micah Bucey, Judson Memorial Church, NY
Rev. Mary Foulke, Rector, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Harlem
Rev. Clyde Kummerle, Ph.D, Ecclesia Ministries, NY
Minister Patricia Malcolm, Churches United to Save and Heal
Rev. Elizabeth Maxwell, Rector, Church of the Ascension
Dr. Uma Mysorekar, President, Hindu Temple Society of North America
Fr. James Francis Sheehan, Jr., Archdiocese of NY
Helen Erwin, Executive Board, Sadhana, Coalition of Progressive Hindus
Aminta Kilawan-Narine, Board Member, Shri Trimurti Bhavan
The Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer, Executive Director, The Interfaith Center of New York
Bishop Raymond Rivera, Latino Pastoral Action Council, Bronx
Rabbi Joshua Strom, Congregation B'nai Yisrael
Rev. Dr. Bruce C. Rivera, Bronx Multi-Faith Advisory Group
Rev. Dustin Wright, Messiah Lutheran
Rev. West McNeill, Journey United Church of Christ
Rev. Earl Arnold, Presbyterian Church U.S.A.
Rev. Michael Bell, Dyer Phelps Memorial AME Zion Church
Rev. Kimberly Johnson, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Fork
Mt Thomas Murphy, Epiphany
The Rev. Noelle Damico, UCC
Rev. Jeffrey Geary, White Plains Presbyterian Church
Rev. Beth DuBois, South Valley Presbyterian Church
Rev. Dave Munro, UU Albany
Rev. Dr. Gail Badger, New Mount Zion Baptist Church
Bishop Kermitt L. Williams, Kingdom Faith Developers
Rev. William Spilly, Diocese of Rochester
Rev. Mark Koenig, Presbyterian Church
Sister Joan Agro, Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, NY
Bishop Raymond Rivera, Latino Pastoral Action Center/Sanctuary Church
Elder Maria Studer, United Presbyterian Church
Elder Marissa Heffernan, Genesis Justice Network
Rev. Sarah Henkel, White Plains Presbyterian Church
Rev. Richard Vosko, Retired
Rev. Monko Susan Spang, Albany Tendai Buddhist Sangha
Rev. Joe Paparone, Labor-Religion Coalition of NYS
Reverend Archdruid Jeremiah Lennox, Nemeton of the Ways

Home Missioner Kevin Nelson, First United Methodist Church, Schenectady
Sister Danielle Bonetti, The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet Albany Province Justice Committee
Rev. Emily Otto, United Church of Christ
Rev. James Sheehan, Archdiocese of New York
Elder Jerold Lewis, Marble Collegiate
Rev. Kymberly McNair, Antioch Baptist Church, Bedford Hills, NY
Rev. Brian Moll, The Choir Church
Rev. Carlos Gonzalez, Strong Place Baptist Church
Rev. Glenn Leupold, First Presbyterian Church of Albany, NY
The Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer, The Interfaith Center of New York
Rev. Connie Seifert, United Methodist Church
Rev. Katy Stenta, New Covenant Presbyterian Church
Rev. Valerie Faust, Living Word Tabernacle
Rev. Lynn Bodden, First Reformed, Schenectady
Rev. Peter Cook, New York State Council of Churches
Rev. Dr. Miriam Lawrence Leupold, First Presbyterian Church
Rabbi Brent Spodek, Beacon Hebrew Alliance
Rev. James Dorner, St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Rev. Martha Swords-Horrell, First United Methodist Church
Rev. Sara Baron, First UMC Schenectady
Rev. Joe Cleveland, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Saratoga Springs
Will McMorris, 1st Pres Albany
Terri Pahucki, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northern Westchester
Martha McNeill, Fairport United Methodist Church
Jonathan Spear, Congregation Beth Elohim
Mary Yelenick, Roman Catholic Global Peace Movement
Kipp Lyle, Vocal-NY
Rev. Seth Zuiho Segall, White Plains Zen/ Boundless Way Zen of Westchester
Aniqa Nawabi, Muslim Community Network, NYC
Rabbi Lauren Grabelle Herrmann, SAJ-Judaism that Stands for All
Chaplain Kim Eliano#LetMyPeopleGoNow!Campaign
Elder Terry Diggory, Presbyterian--New England Congregational Church, Saratoga Springs
Rabbi Jonthan Kligler, Woodstock Jewish Congregation, Woodstock NY
Rev. Dr. Robert Brashear, Moderator Elect, New York City Presbytery
Rabbi Linda Motzkin, Temple Sinai, Saratoga Springs, NY
Rabbi Jonathan Rubenstein, Temple Sinai, Saratoga Springs, NY
Rev. Dr. Noel D. Vanek, Community Church of the Pelhams UCC
Rabbi Jonathan Kligler, Woodstock Jewish Congregation, Woodstock, NY
Deacon Edward Solomon, Saratoga Springs New York
Rev. Drew Paton, South Presbyterian Church, Dobbs Ferry, NY
Rev. Frank J. Alagna, Holy Cross/Santa Cruz Episcopal Church, Kingston, NY
Margot Jepson, Holy Cross/Santa Cruz Episcopal Church, Kingston, NY
Rev. Dr. Leonisa Ardizzone, UU Congregation of the Catskills, Kingston NY
Rev. Dr. Joy MacVane, Clinton Avenue United Methodist, Kingston NY
Rev. Charles J. Blauvelt, Trinity Episcopal Church, Saugerties NY
Rev. Dr. Renee S. House, Old Dutch Church, Kingston NY
Pastor Marcelino Mejicano, Centro Cristiano Renacer, Hudson, NY
The Rev. Susan Auchincloss, St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, Woodstock, NY
Rabbi Debora Gordon, Congregation Berith Sholom, Troy, NY
Rabbi Matthew Cutler, Congregation Gate of Heaven, Schenectady, NY

Rev. Dr. Robert Milsom, St. James United Methodist Church of Kingston, NY
Rev. Geoffrey Shugen Arnold, Zen Mountain Monastery, Mt. Tremper, NY
Rev. Kevin Slusher, Reformed Church of Port Ewen, NY
Rev. Lane Campbell, First Universalist Church of Rochester, NY
Adele Calcavecchio, Holy Cross/Santa Cruz Episcopal Church, Kingston, NY