

**With Budget Down to the Wire, Leading Community, Social Service, and Labor Groups  
Urge Albany Leaders to Fully Fund Excluded Workers**

*Groups representing more than 1 million New Yorkers urge inclusion of full \$3.5 billion Excluded  
Workers Fund*

Dear Governor Cuomo, Assembly Speaker Heastie, and Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins:

Our organizations write in full support of funding excluded workers in the state budget at a level of at least \$2.1 billion—and we urge investment to get to the full \$3.5 billion that would provide parity with what all other workers are able to access in unemployment benefits.

Hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers have gone without a single penny in government income relief for over a year. This is a humanitarian crisis, with many of these New Yorkers continuing to live from food pantry distribution to food pantry distribution to put any food on their families' tables. Many excluded workers worked in essential jobs serving and protecting the rest of us during the peaks of the pandemic; yet if they became too ill to continue working, or lost their jobs or hours as businesses shuttered, they still were blocked from accessing the basic unemployment relief that the rest of us depend on to survive during the darkest times.

In addition to the clear moral imperative to fund excluded workers, the economic case for fairness is also clear. The Fiscal Policy Institute (FPI) has found that undocumented New Yorkers pay \$1.1 billion annually in state and local taxes. Because New York has a regressive tax system, excluded workers actually pay overall taxes - income, property, and sales tax - at a *higher effective rate* than the wealthy in New York. Moreover, undocumented immigrants' employers have contributed over \$1.4 billion into the unemployment system over the past 10 years on behalf of workers that are not eligible to collect.

While they pay so much into the system, excluded workers have received no unemployment benefits, or any other government income relief, since the start of the pandemic. FPI has found that the \$2.1 billion fund proposed by the legislature would be just three percent of the total Unemployment Benefits that New Yorkers have received since the beginning of the pandemic (and less than two percent of what they are projected to receive through the end of 2021), while undocumented workers represent five percent of the state labor force.

It is also economically disastrous for our state to leave hundreds of thousands of our neighbors without the ability to buy basic necessities—low income workers spend nearly every penny in local businesses on food, clothing, diapers, and basic supplies. This fund makes economic sense for all New Yorkers—getting survival cash to these families will serve as a badly-needed stimulus to small businesses and local economies desperate for relief.

Signed,

1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East  
32BJ SEIU  
DC 37  
New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA)  
Communication Workers of America (CWA) District 1

Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU)  
Long Island Federation of Labor AFL-CIO  
Professional Staff Congress (PSC CUNY)  
New York Taxi Workers Alliance  
Construction & General Building Laborers' Local 79  
Laundry, Distribution and Food Service Union Joint Board, Workers United, SEIU  
Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW  
Doctors Council, SEIU  
NY NJ Regional Joint Board, Workers United/SEIU  
Make the Road New York  
New York Communities for Change  
National Day Laborer Organizing Network  
NY Working Families Party  
NY Nail Salon Workers Association  
Alliance for Quality Education  
Community Voices Heard  
DRUM - Desis Rising Up & Moving  
Jews for Racial and Economic Justice  
Street Vendor Project  
New York Immigration Coalition  
ALIGN-NY  
Community Service Society  
Citizen Action of NY  
Strong Economy For All Coalition  
VOCAL-NY  
Long Island Jobs with Justice  
Dutchess County Progressive Action Alliance  
Empire State Indivisible  
Legal Aid Society  
Fiscal Policy Institute  
NYC Democratic Socialists of America (DSA)  
Workplace Project  
Workers Center of Central NY  
Freeport Workers Justice Center  
Churches United For Fair Housing (CUFFH)  
Long Island Civic Engagement Table  
Long Island Progressive Coalition  
New York Civic Engagement Table  
Columbia County Sanctuary Movement  
Staten Island Women Who March  
CNY Solidarity Coalition  
Housing Justice for All  
Worker Justice Center of New York (WJCNY)  
Center for Popular Democracy  
Housing Works  
Rise and Resist  
Communities United for Police Reform (CPR)

Met Council on Housing  
Indivisible Harlem  
Long Island Activists  
Suffolk Progressives  
Upper West Side Action  
CCoHOPE Indivisible  
West Harlem Progressive Dems  
CAAAY: Organizing Asian Communities  
S.T.O.P.  
To Do List Indivisible  
Indivisible Mohawk Valley  
Peace Action of Staten Island  
PEER: Progressive East End Reformers  
Mekong NYC  
Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson  
Safe Horizon  
Inwood Indivisibles  
New York Progressive Action Network (NYPAN)  
Communities Resist  
HOPE: Housing Organizers for People Empowerment  
Indivisible Nassau County  
Indivisible Upper East Side  
Together We Will Long Island  
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families (CACF)  
El Puente  
Hester Street  
Chinese American Planning Council  
Immigrant Defense Project  
Adhikaar  
Muslims For Progress  
Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development (ANHD)  
Long Island Justice Action Network  
New Hour for Women & Children  
Latinos Unidos de Long Island  
Neighbors Together  
Ridgewood Tenant Union  
Food and Water Action NY  
Brooklyn Movement Center  
Long Island Black Alliance  
Long Island Latino Teachers Association  
NY02 Indivisible  
Tenants & Neighbors  
Chhaya Community Development Corporation  
Bangladeshi Tenant Union  
Indivisible New Rochelle  
Indivisible Nation BK  
CodePink Long Island

Asian American Federation  
South Queens Women's March  
Campaign for New York Health  
Queens Neighborhoods United  
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy  
Freedom for Immigrants  
Tenants Political Action Committee  
AFFIRM  
Long Island Network for Change  
North East Queens Indivisible  
Sunrise Nassau  
Center for New York City Affairs at The New School  
The Commission on the Public's Health System  
United Neighbors Organization (UNO)  
Teen Empowerment  
Safety Net Project, Urban Justice Center  
Bangladeshi Americans for Political Progress (BAPP)  
Crown Heights Tenant Union (CHTU)  
Mixteca  
New Economy Project  
Latinx Ministry The Riverside Church  
RiseBoro  
MomsRising  
Judson Memorial Church  
Robinhood  
Open Buffalo  
Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition  
Sistas and Brothas United  
Empire Justice Center  
Sane Energy Project  
Sunrise NYC  
NY Youth Climate Leaders  
Cypress Hills LDC  
Alliance for a Green Economy  
Metro NY Healthcare for All  
Committee on US-Latin American Relations of Ithaca  
Jackson Heights Immigrant Solidarity Network  
New York Doctors Coalition  
Young Invincibles  
Resource Generation NYC  
PUSH Buffalo  
National Domestic Workers Alliance- NY Chapter  
Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition (NWBCCC)  
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy  
Citizens' Committee for Children  
Long Island Together  
North Brookhaven Sanctuary Cluster

MinKwon Center for Community Action  
NYS American Academy of Pediatrics, chapters 1, 2 and 3  
African Communities Together  
Citizen's Committee for Children of New York  
Grassroots Action NY  
Hepatitis C Mentor and Support Group  
Rockland Immigration Coalition  
Rockland Jews for Immigrant Justice  
Proyecto Faro