



## NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

February 16, 2017

Hon. Carl Heastie, Speaker  
New York State Assembly  
932 Legislative Office Building  
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Speaker Heastie:

We write to seek your support for including in the Fiscal 2017-2018 budget **\$4 million for the Settlement House Program (SHP), which provides funding for 48 settlement houses across the state** via the Office of Children and Family Services and the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (see attached list of participating organizations). The program has been funded in past years through the advocacy of the Legislature, but has been zeroed out once again in this year's Executive Budget proposal.

The amount we are proposing this year would reflect a \$1.55 million increase over the \$2.45 million included in last year's enacted budget, but still significantly less than the \$7 million included in the State budget several years ago. Increasing funding for SHP, which last year provided grants ranging from \$35,000 to \$70,000 to each of the four dozen organizations, would enhance the ability of settlement houses to provide innovative community-based child, youth, immigrant and family services that are tailored to the needs of the communities in which they work.

As one of the few sources of flexible funding available for neighborhood-based organizations, the SHP allows these organizations to provide vital programming that would otherwise not be possible due to gaps created by conflicting federal, state and local funding requirements. This flexible funding is particularly important as there is uncertainty surrounding potential cuts to various sources of federal funding for social services under the new presidential administration. The settlement houses funded through SHP provide a wide array of services, including treatment and counseling services for sexually abused children, programming for youth too old for child programming, but not yet old enough for traditional teen programs such as the Summer Youth

Employment Program, culturally competent domestic violence and prevention services, parent engagement and family literacy programs, skill-building support for homeless youth, college preparation assistance, workforce training, and eviction prevention and case management services for families at risk of homelessness.

Every day local service providers see the challenges facing our constituents. With increased support for SHP, each settlement house will be able to respond more readily to the unique and evolving needs of our communities.

Sincerely,



Brian Kavanagh



Yuh-Line Niou

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