



November 22, 2024

The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of New York State  
Executive Chamber  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul:

We, the undersigned organizations, understand that you have called up S.4877-A (Mayer) / A.2740-B (Paulin) and we strongly urge you to sign it into law. This important measure will begin to make necessary improvements to the contracting process in New York State. Its enactment would indeed strengthen New York's not-for-profit network as they prepare for the fight of a lifetime to protect civil rights and ensure that vital safety net benefits continue.

Not-for-profit organizations provide critical services as an extension of the state via contractual agreements. In many cases, not-for-profit organizations are providing safety net services and vital economic support that help to keep families housed, in good health, and put food on the table. In the case of civil legal services, this includes vital legal work to support those facing domestic violence, housing instability, custody battles, loss of income, immigration challenges, and more.

However, the contracting process in New York State is consistently slow, delaying payment and undermining the financial stability of not-for-profit providers. Furthermore, the reimbursement model that requires not-for-profits to hire and pay staff and then be reimbursed does not work for organizations that are small or do not have reserves or significant lines of credit. As a result, small organizations, many led by individuals from marginalized communities, are unable to do business with the state.

Given the changes in the federal landscape, New York State's not-for-profit organizations are even more critical to defending civil rights and providing safety net services. Signing this legislation would help remove some existing burdens on not-for-profits and allow them to better serve our most vulnerable and

marginalized communities, who are already coming under attack. This bill would indeed go a long way to put our agencies on better footing so they may continue to work hand-in-glove with the state to protect New Yorkers.

Faced with the financial burdens of late contract registration and subsequent late payment, not-for-profit organizations must scramble to shift resources, raise private dollars to subsidize state services, utilize high-interest lines of credit and even take out personal loans to cover the gaps when cash flow dips into the red. In worst-case scenarios, organizations are forced to suspend services or worse, close their doors. Moreover, not-for-profit organizations are navigating multiple challenges from difficulty with recruiting and retaining staff, to the conflation of inflation and the rising cost of doing business with flat funding. These delays and uncertainty undermine the ability to support staff via salary increases and hampering the ability to be competitive in recruiting key staff including attorneys.

This bill will take critical steps to address the chronic delay in contracting execution in New York State. It will establish a “non-compliant state agency” category that outlines three circumstances of delayed action by an agency on a contract. If deemed “non-compliant,” the offending agency would be required to submit detailed information about the delayed contracts to the State Comptroller and the grantee to effectuate prompt execution of the delinquent items. The bill would also require the non-compliant agency to also submit a six-month progress report to the Comptroller and legislature on efforts to remedy deficient contracts and to recommend changes to internal policies and procedures for grants moving forward. Lastly, the proposal would require the provision of the state’s payment schedule in all written directives and mandate the payment of interest for any late payments made to grantees.

This legislation will provide not-for-profit organizations with information about the status of their contracts to allow for planning. Such information is not currently consistently available. It will also help the Executive to determine where improvements can be made and how to implement them. While we are aware that state agencies face resource challenges of their own, without a reasonable degree of certainty of timeliness in payment, a not-for-profit organization's ability to fill positions and meet service delivery commitments will remain tenuous. These measures, over time, will improve the contracting process and ultimately improve the delivery of essential services to New Yorkers, including those from marginalized communities. New York can do better and this bill is a very good first step.

Thank you for your attention to this important measure. We welcome the opportunity to answer any questions or to discuss further with your staff.

Sincerely,

***Signatories***  
***(As of November 22, 2024)***

**The New York Legal Services Coalition**

**The New York Council of Nonprofits, Inc.**

2-1-1 New York Inc.  
ACACIA NETWORK  
Access Justice Brooklyn  
ACR Health  
Action for a Better Community Inc.  
Action for Older Persons  
Advocacy Center of Tompkins County  
Advocates Incorporated  
Albany Law School CED Clinic  
Allegany County Community Opportunities  
and Rural Development, Inc  
Alliance of New York State YMCAs  
Arts Business Collaborative  
Arts Council for Wyoming County  
BestSelf Behavioral Health, Inc.  
Black Cultural Capital  
Broadway Community  
Bronx Freedom Fund  
Bronx House  
Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A  
Brooklyn Neighborhood Services  
CAMBA, Inc.  
CASES  
Catholic Charities Family and Community  
Services  
Catholic Charities of Buffalo  
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany  
Catskill Center for Conservation and  
Development  
Cattaraugus Community Action, Inc.  
Causewave Community Partners  
CCCS of Rochester  
Center for Community Alternatives, Inc.  
Center for Elder Law & Justice  
Center for Independence of the Disabled,  
New York  
Center for Justice Innovation  
Center for NYC neighborhood  
Challenger/Miracle Field Of WNY Inc.  
Charles Settlement House & Community  
Place of Greater Rochester  
Chautauqua Opportunities inc  
Chemung County Habitat for Humanity  
Child and Family Services  
Child Development Council of Central New  
York Inc  
Children's Aid  
Children's Rights Society  
Citizens Concerned for Children, Inc.  
City Bar Justice Center  
City Harvest  
City of Rochester  
Climate Solutions Accelerator of the  
Genesee-Finger Lakes Region  
Coddington Road Community Center, Inc  
Common Threads

Community Action of Orleans and Genesee	Family Counseling Service of the Finger Lakes, Inc.
Community Science Institute	
Compeer Rochester	Fearless! Hudson Valley, Inc.
Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Rochester, Inc.	Feeding New York State
Coordinated Care Services, Inc. (CCSI)	Feeding Westchester
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County	FeedMore Western New York
Cortland County Community Action Program, Inc.	Fence Magazine, Inc.
Council of Agency Executives	Fifth Avenue Committee
Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation, Inc.	Finger Lakes Community Health
Day One	Food Bank For New York City
Deaf Refugee Advocacy, Inc	Food Bank of Central New York
Delaware Opportunities	Foodlink
Delphi Drug & Alcohol Council, Inc. DBA Delphi Rise	Forward Leading IPA (FLIPA)
Dress for Success Rochester	FPWA (Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies)
Early Care & Learning Council	Frank H. Hiscock Legal Aid Society
ECLI-VIBES	Fresh Youth Initiatives
Economic Opportunity Program, Inc.	Fulmont Community Action Agency, Inc
Empire Clean Cities	Garrison Art Center
Empire Justice Center	Genesee Co-op Federal Credit Union
Episcopal Actors' Guild	Genesee Land Trust, Inc.
Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc.	Goddard Riverside Law Project
Expanded Schools	Golden Opportunity
FAIRNY	Golden Opportunity (GO), Inc.
	Goodwill Finger Lakes
	Goodwill Industries of Greater NY and Northern NJ
	Grand Street Settlement

Grants4Good LLC  
Greater Mental Health of New York  
H.O.M.E, Inc.  
Habitat for Humanity of Tompkins and Cortland Counties  
HANAC, Inc.  
Health WorkForce New York  
Healthy Community Alliance, Inc.  
Hillside  
His Branches Community Health Center  
HOPE for Bereaved, Inc.  
Hope's Door  
Hopeprint, Inc  
Housing and Family Services of Greater New York  
Housing Conservation Coordinators  
Housing Works  
Human Development Services of Westchester  
Human Services Coalition of Tompkins County  
Human Services Council of NY  
Hunger Free America Inc.  
Hunger Solutions New York  
Huther Doyle Memorial Institute  
Immigrant ARC  
In Our Own Voices, Inc  
Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing

InterFaith Works of Central New York  
International Center of the Capital Region  
Ithaca Community Radio Inc.  
JASA  
JASA Legal Services for Elder Justice  
JCCA  
JCEO of Clinton and Franklin Counties, Inc.  
Jewish Community Council of Greater Coney Island  
Jewish Family Services of Rochester  
Jewish Family Services of Western New York  
Journey's End Refugee Services  
Just-Tech  
JustCause  
KAVI (Kings Against Violence Initiative)  
Keeping Our Promise Inc.  
Kingsbridge Heights Community Center  
La Fuerza Unida Inc.  
Lantern Community Services  
LAUNCH  
Lawyers For Children  
Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo, Inc.  
Legal Services of the Hudson Valley  
Lewis County Opportunities, Inc.  
Lifespan of Greater Rochester, Inc.  
Literacy Volunteers of Rensselaer County  
Long Island Advocacy Center, Inc.

Long Island Housing Services, Inc.  
Long Island Social Justice Action Network  
Love Living at Home  
Make the Road New York  
Martin De Porres Youth and Family Services  
McMahon Ryan Child Advocacy Center  
Menands Public Library  
Mercy Center  
MHA Rochester/Monroe County, Inc.  
MMCC  
Mohawk Valley CAA  
Neighborhood Collaborative Project  
Neighborhood Defender Services of Harlem  
Neighbors Helping Neighbors  
New Hour  
New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG)  
New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
New York State Community Action Association (NYSCAA)  
New York State Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare  
New York State Horse Council, Inc.  
New York StateWide Senior Action Council  
Niagara Community Action Program, Inc.  
NMIC  
NYC Alliance Against Sexual Assault

Oak Orchard Community Health Center, Inc.  
OLA of Eastern Long Island  
Opportunities for Otsego, Inc.  
Orchestra Association of Northern New York  
Partners Ending Homelessness  
Partners in Learning, Inc.  
People Inc.  
Pinnacle Community Services  
Prevent Child Abuse New York  
Pro Bono Net, Inc.  
Progressives Educating New Yorkers, Inc.  
Project Guardianship  
Project Hospitality  
Public Health Solutions  
Queens Jewish Community Council  
Queens Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc.  
Racker  
REACH CNY, Inc.  
Refugee & Immigrant Self-Empowerment (RISE)  
Refugee and Immigrant Support Services of Emmaus, Inc.  
Refugees Helping Refugees  
Reher Center for Immigrant Culture and History  
RESTORE Sexual Assault Services  
Rise-NY

Rising Ground, Inc.  
Robin Hood  
Rochester Hearing & Speech Center  
Rural Law Center of New York, Inc.  
Salvation Army  
Samaritan Daytop Village, Inc  
Schenectady Community Action Program (SCAP)  
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy  
Sid Jacobson Jewish Community Center, Inc.  
SPCC  
Suicide Prevention & Crisis Service, Inc. (Crisis Services)  
Sullivan County Conflict Legal Aid, Inc.  
Sunnyside Community Services  
Survivor Advocacy Center of the Finger Lakes  
Syracuse Northeast Community Center  
Taproot Collective, Inc.  
The Child Center of NY  
The Children's Agenda  
The Children's Village and Harlem Dowling  
The Family Counseling Center  
The Health & Housing Consortium  
The Jewish Board of Family & Children's Services  
The Legal Aid Society of Rochester NY  
The Public Utility Law Project  
The Reading Institute  
The Safe Center LI, Inc.  
The Salvation Army Syracuse Area Services  
Tioga Opportunities, Inc.  
Tioga United Way  
Tri County Arts Council  
Trillium Health  
United Jewish Council of the East Side, Inc.  
United Neighborhood Houses  
United Way of Buffalo & Erie County  
United Way of Greater Oswego County  
United Way of Greater Rochester and the Finger Lakes  
United Way of Mid Rural New York  
United Way of New York State  
United Way of Orleans County, NY  
United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region  
United Way of the Greater Capital Region  
United Way of the Mohawk Valley  
United Way of Tompkins County  
United Way of Westchester and Putnam  
University Settlement Society of New York  
Urban Justice Center  
Urban Pathways  
Victims Assistance Center of Jefferson County  
Volunteer Lawyers Project of CNY  
Volunteers of Legal Services

Wellspring  
West Indian American Day Carnival  
Association  
Westcott Community Center  
Western New York Law Center  
WHOLE ME, Inc.  
WNYIL  
Woodstock Byrdcliffe Guild  
Wyoming County Community Action  
YMCA of Greater New York  
YMCA of Greater Rochester  
YMCA of Ithaca and Tompkins County  
Zone 126  
Anne Schlechter

Cecilia Stancell  
Curtis Kendrick  
David Solomon  
Debbie Vilardi  
Evan Mack  
Jennifer Canning  
JoAnne Metzler  
Kimberly Townsend  
Nancy Erickson  
Pauline E. Burnes, PLLC  
Sarah Wessels  
Susan Lob