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NYCHA's Budget Can't be Balanced on the Backs of the Poor! City Rescinds Vouchers for 3000 Families.

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On December 17, 2009 the New York City Housing Authority announced that it will void 3,000 previously-issued Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers in response to a budget shortfall. Under this plan, 1833 formerly homeless families, 407 victims of domestic violence, and 133 children aging out of foster care or families in the child welfare system in need of housing vouchers for reunification will lose the assistance and face certain homelessness. We are calling on the City's Department of Homeless Services (DHS) to use a small portion of the federal stimulus money it received to bridge the gap and provide the funds necessary to protect the City's most vulnerable populations.

The Section 8 voucher program is a lifeline for the poorest New Yorkers and the last line of defense against homelessness for many. Under the Program, people receiving vouchers can rent apartments on the private market. They pay 30% of their household income for rent and the voucher provides a subsidy for the rest. For the working poor, the disabled, and for people on public assistance, Section 8 vouchers are often a family's only chance at staying together as a family or avoiding the shelter system.

This year DHS received \$75 million for homeless prevention from the federal stimulus package. This money should be used as intended- to bridge the funding gap threatening these families with homelessness. The \$28 million required to fulfill the voucher commitment for one year is only a small portion of the \$108 million that the City will expend if these families are forced into the shelter system. The cost of emergency shelter per person is approximately \$3,000 per month. If 3000 families are added to the shelter rolls, it will cost a total of \$108 million.

WHO: The Legal Aid Society, Legal Services NYC, NYC Council Members Letitia James, Rosie Mendez, Melissa Mark-Viverito, Charles Barron, Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, NYC Public Advocate-Elect Bill de Blasio, Housing Advocacy Groups, Domestic Violence Groups, AIDS Advocacy Groups and You

WHAT: Press Conference to demand that the City prevent the revocation of 3,000 housing vouchers

Keywords: Age and Aging, Legal Services Nyc, Pediatrics.

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