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## **Legislature and Governor Applauded for Restoring Funding for the Healthy Neighborhoods Program in FY 2026–27 State Budget**

(Albany, New York) A group of public health, housing, aging, research, and community organizations today thanked New York State legislative leaders and members as well as Governor Kathy Hochul for restoring funding for the Healthy Neighborhoods Program in the final 2026–2027 state budget agreement.

The final budget restored the proposed elimination of \$1.45 million for the Healthy Neighborhoods Program, a proven, evidence-based public health initiative administered by local health departments that delivers direct, no-cost, in-home education, assessments, and safety interventions to reduce preventable injuries, asthma triggers, lead exposure, and other housing-related health risks.

New York State Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO) Executive Director Sarah Ravenhall said, “By restoring funding for the Healthy Neighborhoods Program, New York has reaffirmed its commitment to prevention, health equity, housing stability, and community safety. This investment will help protect vulnerable residents, preserve local public health capacity, and reduce preventable injuries and illnesses across the state. We thank the legislative leaders and the Governor for their continued commitment to advancing the goals of the New York State Prevention Agenda and protecting the health and safety of New Yorkers.”

NYSAC Executive Director Stephen Acquario said, “Sometimes an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Governor Hochul and state legislators are making a wise investment in the health and well-being of vulnerable New Yorkers by restoring funding to this vital program, which has been proven to reduce preventable injuries, asthma triggers, lead exposure, and other housing-related health risks that can lead to costly emergency room visits or even housing displacement. As more New Yorkers struggle to access and maintain affordable health care and housing, we must continue supporting local health departments that work in our communities every day to protect our most vulnerable residents – and that’s exactly what this funding does.”

Katrina Korfmacher, PhD, Professor of Environmental Medicine and Public Health Sciences at the University of Rochester Medical Center, said, “The Healthy Neighborhoods Program is the most well-researched, evidence-based, cost-effective intervention to promote safe home environments and prevent health hazards anywhere in the nation. I’m delighted that the program will be preserved and hope for its future expansion to benefit even more New York families.”

Elizabeth McDade, Director, Rochester Energy Efficiency and Weatherization (RENEW), said, "The Healthy Neighborhood Program is a cost-effective, important part of community care that should be expanded. Those of us who have worked at the intersection of health and housing for decades are beyond thrilled this critically important program will continue to make a significant impact in the lives of our neighbors."

Clare Robinson-Henrie, Program Director of the Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning at Causewave Community Partners, said, "The restoration of the Healthy Neighborhoods Program is excellent news for community safety and public health in New York. Restoring these funds ensures we can continue proactively addressing home health hazards, protecting residents and building healthier, safer neighborhoods."

Access to safe, healthy, and stable housing is a fundamental determinant of health. Housing-related hazards contribute significantly to preventable injury, illness, emergency department utilization, and avoidable health care costs. The Healthy Neighborhoods Program functions as an upstream prevention and housing stabilization strategy, reducing emergency responses, preventing displacement, and preserving existing housing stock, particularly for low-income households, older adults, families with young children, and individuals disproportionately impacted by social and economic conditions.

Eighteen localities across New York State, including New York City, currently rely on HNP funding to support trained public health staff and provide essential injury prevention education and safety equipment, including smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, fire extinguishers, radon detectors, and supplies to reduce lead hazards and asthma triggers.

Eliminating Healthy Neighborhoods funding would have resulted in workforce disruptions within local health departments, including the immediate loss of 32 full-time employees, while increasing downstream costs to emergency services, health care systems, and local governments.

### **About the Healthy Neighborhoods Program**

The Healthy Neighborhoods Program is a statewide public health initiative administered through local health departments that provides in-home assessments, education, and interventions to address environmental and housing-related health and safety risks. The program helps reduce preventable injuries and illnesses while supporting healthy aging, housing stability, and community well-being.

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