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**United Neighborhood Houses Statement on Mayor’s Executive Budget**  
*Budget shows lack of leadership and hurts young people and their families*

**NEW YORK** – April 16, 2020 – In response to Mayor Bill de Blasio’s Executive Budget, UNH Executive Director Susan Stamler commented:

“We know that New York City’s fiscal situation will force difficult budgeting decisions – an unfortunate consequence of our fight against COVID-19. We are grateful that this budget maintained funding for the Department for the Aging, and avoided major cuts in early childhood education. However, it is outrageous that the Mayor would make such drastic cuts to COMPASS, SONYC, Beacon programs, and NYCHA Cornerstones when young people and their families are already facing so many challenges. At a time when government should be planning to rebuild our neighborhoods, responding to a budget crisis with nothing but program cuts for youth development and no alternative supports does just the opposite.

“The health and economic devastation of the pandemic will have short- and long-term effects on New Yorkers, and low-income families are already bearing the brunt of this crisis. To cut funding for summer camp and youth programs that serve these communities is to abandon the individual children, young people, and families who rely on these programs – over 45,000 children in COMPASS and 24,000 in SONYC alone. The cuts to Cornerstone programming is of grave concern to settlement houses, given the devastating impact that COVID-19 has already had on NYCHA residents.

“On top of canceling the Summer Youth Employment Program for 75,000 young people last week, settlement houses and other community-based organizations need to know if the Mayor has any plan for serving the children and families of New York through this pandemic and its recovery. We need bold and creative ideas to best serve young people at this time, and these budget cuts demonstrate that City Hall is not stepping up to lead. We expect the Mayor to show up for New York’s young people and their families and partner with the provider community to build solutions for providing employment and educational enrichment opportunities this summer.”

**About United Neighborhood Houses**

United Neighborhood Houses (UNH) is a policy and social change organization representing 43 neighborhood settlement houses that reach 765,000 New Yorkers from all walks of life. A progressive

leader for more than 100 years, UNH is stewarding a new era for New York's settlement house movement. We mobilize our members and their communities to advocate for good public policies and promote strong organizations and practices that keep neighborhoods resilient and thriving for all New Yorkers. UNH leads advocacy and partners with our members on a broad range of issues including civic and community engagement, neighborhood affordability, healthy aging, early childhood education, adult literacy, and youth development. We also provide customized professional development and peer learning to build the skills and leadership capabilities of settlement house staff at all levels. For more information, visit <http://www.unhny.org/>.

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