

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 12, 2021

Hon. Janet Yellen  
Secretary of the Treasury  
United States Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Yellen,

We write in strong support of New York State's application for additional federal funds to support New York State's Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). The State is requesting \$996 million in additional federal funding to help fulfill an unmet need among struggling tenants and landlords. As the Treasury Department begins to recapture excess funds that will be available for reallocation under the first Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERA1), we strongly urge you to prioritize New York Governor Kathy Hochul's request for an allocation of additional funds to help the many New Yorkers still in need of rental assistance.

New York State has more renters than any other state in the country, and many households have been struggling to pay rent since the beginning of COVID-19 pandemic. As New York continues to recover from the economic impacts of the pandemic, hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers face significant rental debt and are at risk of housing instability. Having a child in your household is the single greatest predictor of an eviction, and housing instability could pose immense challenges for our youngest constituents for years to come.<sup>1</sup> ERAP has proven to be an invaluable tool in providing much-needed assistance to eligible New Yorkers who are unable to pay their rent.

Since taking office on August 24<sup>th</sup>, Governor Hochul's administration has made significant progress in providing relief to New Yorkers through ERAP. Over 250,000 applications have been submitted since the program began in June, and the State has distributed or obligated almost \$2.2 billion of its ERAP funds. Additionally, New York has provided \$250 million in State funds to help vulnerable landlords and renters who do not qualify for federal ERAP assistance. Governor Hochul has also taken action to prevent a potential eviction crisis by extending the State's moratorium on evictions through January 15, 2022. Although the State has made rapid progress with its rental assistance program, New York's need far exceeds available funding. The State currently has thousands of applications pending for ERAP assistance and continues to receive applications at a rate of over 10,000 per week. These applications represent an estimated \$130 million in weekly new requests for assistance.

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<sup>1</sup> Desmond, Matthew et al. 2013. "Evicting Children." *Social Forces*.  
[https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/mdesmond/files/social\\_forces-2013-desmond-303-27.pdf](https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/mdesmond/files/social_forces-2013-desmond-303-27.pdf)

We appreciate the Treasury Department's recent guidance on its process for reallocating funds under ERA1 pursuant to the statutory requirement. Since New York has fully obligated its ERA1 funds and expects to obligate all ERA2 funding very soon, the State has clearly demonstrated its need and eligibility for an allocation of additional funds. Therefore, we strongly urge the Treasury to prioritize the State's request as the reallocation process moves forward and urge you to provide New York with the additional resources needed to continue providing critical relief through its emergency rental assistance program.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. If we can be of assistance going forward, please contact Tom Curry in Rep. Rice's District Office at (202) 505-0424 or [tom.curry@mail.house.gov](mailto:tom.curry@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress

/s/ Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator

/s/ Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator

/s/ Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

/s/ Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress

/s/ Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress

/s/ Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress

/s/ Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress

/s/ Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress

/s/ Hakeem Jeffries  
Member of Congress

/s/ Grace Meng  
Member of Congress

/s/ Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress

/s/ Joseph D. Morelle  
Member of Congress

/s/ Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress

/s/ Jamaal Bowman  
Member of Congress

/s/ Mondaire Jones  
Member of Congress

/s/ Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress