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January 20, 2026

Hon. Joanne Cunningham, Chairwoman
Albany County Legislature
112 State St., Room 710
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Chairwoman Cunningham:

The Department of Social Services (DSS) respectfully requests legislative approval to accept the 2025-2026 appropriation of \$560,303 from the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) to continue operating the NYS Shelter Arrears Eviction Forestallment (SAEF) Program.

DSS will utilize SAEF funding to help Safety Net individuals and families (with or without children) facing eviction. To the extent possible, DSS will prioritize households with children under six (6) years of age, single individuals with a history of housing instability, veterans, individuals and families experiencing domestic violence (DV), and other victims of violence.

SAEF payments, available on a first-come first-serve basis, will be made directly to the landlord/property owner on behalf of the tenant and will not exceed a total of six months of arrears per household.

Sincerely,

Erin M. Stachewicz
Commissioner

cc: Dennis A. Feeney, Majority Leader
Frank A. Mauriello, Minority Leader
Rebekah Kennedy, Esq., Majority Counsel
James Curran, Esq., Minority Counsel