



Governor Kathy Hochul
New York State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Re: Urgent Action Needed to Protect Nonprofits' Client Confidentiality

Dear Governor Hochul,

We, the undersigned **239** nonprofit organizations and individuals from across the state, ask you to act quickly to change State contract language that threatens the security of vulnerable communities and impedes the delivery of essential safety net programming.

Section III.F of the January 2024 NYS Contract for Grants template, which State agencies use for contracts with nonprofits, makes client data the property of the State and bars the nonprofit from using it to provide services to those clients outside of the State-funded program. The State contracts with nonprofits precisely because of their longstanding relationships of trust with people in the community. Requiring nonprofits to share confidential client information with the State threatens that trust, particularly when clients are domestic violence survivors, immigrants, LGBTQI people, or members of other vulnerable communities. This is an issue for all nonprofits delivering social services, but it is especially problematic when the services are provided by attorneys, social workers, and others with a professional or legal obligation to maintain client confidentiality. It also violates Public Officers Law sec. 94, which prohibits the State from collecting personally identifiable information unnecessarily.

The State funds nonprofits to provide food security, safety for domestic violence survivors, early childhood education, senior services, legal aid for immigrants and tenants, workforce development and so much more. For those programs to succeed, people who receive those services must entrust nonprofits with their most sensitive personal information. Many simply will not do so if they know that information will be passed on to State agencies. In addition, because State contracts rarely cover the full cost of providing services, nonprofits must use anonymized client service data to raise funds from additional sources and to report to those other

fundere. The State must fix its contract template immediately to make confidential client information the property of nonprofit contractors.

Some of our organizations have already recommended contract language that would protect client confidentiality while allowing the State to exercise its legitimate contract oversight authority. We also ask that you work closely with nonprofit contractors to review the contract as a whole. As critical partners in the State's safety net programming, we must also be equal partners in drafting our contracts with the State.

Sincerely,

Signatories
(As of December 2, 2024)

The Lawyers Alliance

59E59 Theaters

Access Justice Brooklyn

ACR Health

Advocates for Children of New York

Advocates Incorporated

ALLIANCE OF FAMILIES FOR JUSTICE

American Center for Strategic and
International Affairs

Ardea Arts, Inc

Ariva Inc

Artists Alliance Inc

Asian American Federation

Asiyah Women's Center

The New York Legal Services Coalition

BalancedCare Community Services, Inc.

Ballet Tech

Beam Center

Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation

Belmont Housing Resources for WNY, Inc.

BK ROT

Bowery Alliance of Neighbors

Braata Productions

Brooklyn Book Bodega

Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A

Buffalo Urban League

Calpulli Mexican Dance Company, Inc.

CAMBA Legal Services, Inc.

CAMBA, Inc.

Can Code Communities

Caribbean Equality Project

CaringKind, The Heart of Alzheimer's Caregiving

CASES (Center for Alternative Sentencing and Employment Services)

Catholic Charities of Onondaga County

Catholic Migration Services

Center for Community Alternatives

Center for Elder Law & Justice, Karen L. Nicolson, CEO

Center for Elder Law and Justice

Center for Safety & Change

Center for Urban Pedagogy

Central Islip Civic Council, Inc.

Charles Settlement House & Community Place of Greater Rochester

Child Care Solutions, Inc.

Children's Aid

Chinese-American Planning Council

City Bar Justice Center

City Living NY

Co-Counsel NYC

Coalition for Asian American Children and Families (CACF)

Coalition of Institutionalized Aged and Disabled

Community Access, Inc.

Community Action of Orleans and Genesee

Community Resource Exchange

Community Service Society of New York

Community Services HDC

Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Rochester, Inc.

Cortland County Community Action Program, Inc. (CAPCO)

Dance/NYC

Day One

Diana Breen Consulting, LLC

Domestic VIolence Project at the Urban Justice Center

Downtown Community Television Center, Inc.

EAC Network

Empire Justice Center

Enchanted Mountains Village

Episcopal Actors' Guild

Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project

Exponents

FAIRNY (Fairness Alliance and Information Resources of New York, Inc.)

Forestdale	INCLUDEnyc
FPWA	IndieSpace
Francescos Foundation Incorporated	JASA Legal Services for Elder Justice
Frank H. Hiscock Legal Aid Society	Journeys End Refugee Services
Franklin County Community Housing Council	Joyful Planet LLC
Friends of the North Country	JustCause
Goddard Riverside	KAVI (Kings Against Violence Initiative)
Good Shepherd Services	Keuka Housing Council Inc.
Graham Windham	La Colmena
Gray Panthers NYC	La Fuerza Unida, Inc.
Groundswell Community Mural Project	Latinos Unidos de Long Island
Her Justice	Lawyers Alliance for New York and the New York Legal Services Coalition
Homeward NYC	Lawyers For Children, Inc.
Housing & Homeless Coalition of Central New York	Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo, Inc.
Housing Conservation Coordinators	Legal Aid Society of Rockland County, Inc.
Housing Court Answers	Legal Momentum, The Women's Legal Defense & Education Fund
Housing Help Inc.	Legal Services Attorney
Hudson Guild	Legal Services NYC
Hudson River Housing, Inc	Legal Services of Central New York
Hudson Valley Justice Center	Legal Services of Long Island
Human Services Council	Legal Services of the Hudson Valley
I Heart MF	Leviathan Lab
Immigrant ARC	Lifespan of Greater Rochester, Inc.

Literacy Trust	New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG)
LiveOn NY	
Long Island Housing Services, inc.	New York State Children's Alliance, Inc.
Long Term Care Community Coalition	New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Make the Road New York	New York State Defenders Association
Mark DeGarmo Dance	New Yorkers for Culture & Arts
Martin De Porres Youth and Family Services	Next Generation Men Of Transition
Medicaid Matters New York	NMIC
Mekong NYC	Nonprofit New York
Metro Justice	Nonprofit Westchester
MMCC	NY StateWide Senior Action Council
Mobilization for Justice, Inc.	Opportunities for Otsego, Inc.
MODArts Dance Collective	Pace Women's Justice Center
Mohawk Indian Housing Corporation	Partnership for After School Education (PASE)
Naked Angels Theater Company	PathStone Corporation
Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem	Precious First Step Child Development Center Inc
Neighborhood Legal Services, Inc.	Pro Bono Net
New Pride Agenda	Progressives Educating New Yorkers, Inc
New York City Arts in Education Roundtable	Project Guardianship
New York Council of Nonprofits, Inc.	Queens Community House
New York Immigration Coalition	Queens Defenders
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest	Queens Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc.
	RaisingHealth Partners

Refugee and Immigrant Support Services of
Emmaus, Inc.

Rise-NY

Rising Ground, Inc.

Rockaways Neighbors Helping Neighbors

SAGE USA

Sakhi for South Asian Survivors

Schuyler County Office for the Aging

The Ali Forney Center

Syracuse Model Neighborhood Facility Inc.

The Art Therapy Project

The Door - A Center of Alternatives, Inc.

The HALI Foundation, Inc

The Health & Housing Consortium

The Jewish Board of Family & Children's
Services

The Korean American Family Service Center

The Legal Aid Society

The Legal Aid Society of Rochester, NY

The Legal Project

The SafeGuard Group

Transformational Intelligence

UNITED SIKHS

United Neighborhood Houses

United Tenants of Albany

Urban Justice Center

Urban Pathways Inc

Urban Upbound

Violence Intervention Program

Volunteer Lawyers Project of CNY, Inc.

Volunteers of Legal Service

Washington County Economic Opportunity
Council, Inc. d/b/a/ L.E.A.P.

WAVE Women Inc.

Westcott Community Center

Western New York Law Center

Whole Me, Inc.

Womankind

Women for afghan women

Workers Center of Central New York

Yleana Leadership Foundation

Youth Action YouthBuild

Zone 126

Alison Gerson

Amy Turner

Andrew Cortese

Brenda Berkman

Brianna Weaver

Carrie Steinmetz

Cole Giannone

Daniel Kelley

Dechelle Damien

Derek Smith

Edwin Gonzalez

Ellyn Kessler

Grethe Barrett Holby

Hannah Webster,

Ismael Diaz

James Williams

Jenny Asaro, LCAT, ATR-BC

Jill Eisenhard

Jill Marcus

Jill Paperno

Jim Dukette

Jorien Brock

Kim Belizaire

Kristin Henley

Laurie Stricks

Lulu Fogarty

Mary Lou Hoffman

Nancy S. Erickson

Naya Coard

Pamela Mary

Pamela Spadaro

Paola Martinez-Boone

Rachel W. W. Granfield

Raphael Stern

Samantha Pedreiro

Sandra Gresl

S. Skier

Sarah Thompson

Siobhan O'Neill

Tara Bognar

Veda Kamra