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Good Shepherd Services Denounces Cuts to Youth Services in Mayor’s Executive Budget and Calls on NYC to Collaborate with Social Service Providers on Alternatives

New York, NY – As New York City grapples with government revenue shortfalls due to COVID-19, Michelle Yanche, Executive Director of Good Shepherd Services, released the following statement in response to Mayor De Blasio’s decision to cut aid to youth services – from education to juvenile justice programs – from the city’s upcoming budget. Yanche is calling for the Mayor to collaborate with social service providers who are working around the clock to support the City during the pandemic throughout economically insecure communities:

“We understand the terrible position we as a city are in during this unprecedented time. The human service organizations like Good Shepherd Services that are part of the crisis response will also be critical during the recovery period. This is the time to reimagine how government and not-for-profit human service providers can work together differently to respond to the needs on the ground and to build the supports that will be needed for students to make up for lost learning time, for communities to recover, and for New York City to get back to work.

“Across the board, non-profit human services providers are rising to the challenge each day to support our communities despite personal risks. We – and the communities we partner with – need more collaboration with the city’s leadership to ensure our young people have the support they need to recover from the economic and educational impacts of this pandemic. Without true partnership and support from City Hall, we risk leaving the communities that need us most without the services they rely on – especially as we look to get New Yorkers back to school and work.” ###

About Good Shepherd Services:

Good Shepherd Services goes where children, youth, and families face the greatest challenges and provides resources that build on their inherent strengths to help them thrive. Good Shepherd operates over 80 programs, which help nearly 30,000 youth and family members in struggling neighborhoods throughout New York City. All programs are united by a common goal—to create opportunities that help our participants succeed at school, at home, and in their community.