



**If you're a family on welfare,  
and you can't pay the rent,  
Jiggetts/FEPS may be able to help.**

### **What Is Jiggetts?**

*Jiggetts* is a lawsuit brought by The Legal Aid Society against New York State. The lawsuit was brought because the shelter allowance for families with minor children in receipt of public assistance fails to cover most New York City rents. In 1997, a judge ordered the State to issue an adequate shelter allowance. The State has still not done so and the lawsuit is still pending. However, because of the lawsuit, the State has been forced to pay back rent and higher ongoing rent for certain families. These payments are known as *Jiggetts* relief.

### **What Is FEPS?**

The Family Eviction Prevention Supplement ("FEPS") is a new program that started in May 2005. As with *Jiggetts* relief, the State pays back rent and higher ongoing rent for some families who receive public assistance.

### **Who Can Apply for Jiggetts Relief or FEPS ?**

You MAY be eligible for *Jiggetts* relief or FEPS if:

- ★ You and/or your child(ren) receive welfare benefits, and
- ★ At least one of your children lives with you and is less than 18 (or 18 and still enrolled in high school or its equivalent), and
- ★ You have been sued by your landlord, and
- ★ You owe back rent, and
- ★ Your rent is higher than the rent allowance that you receive from welfare. (For example, you are a family of three that receives a rent allowance of \$400 per month, but your rent is \$750).

There are other reasons you may or may not qualify for *Jiggetts*/FEPS. Only an authorized organization can tell you for sure.

### **How Can I Apply for Jiggetts Relief or FEPS?**

To obtain *Jiggetts*/FEPS you must go to an authorized *Jiggetts*/FEPS organization. They will give you more information you need to know about *Jiggetts* and FEPS. If they believe you should qualify, they will submit an application to the State on your behalf. You may have to wait a month or more for your application to be officially approved. After your application is approved, your Welfare Center will issue some or all of the back money. You will also get help paying some or all of your future rent. To find an organization that may be able to help you, call The Legal Aid Society.

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## **The Legal Aid Society**

**Upper Manhattan: 212-426-3000 • Lower Manhattan: 212-577-3300 • The Bronx: 718-991-4758  
Brooklyn: 718-722-3100 • Queens: 718-286-2450 • Staten Island: 718-273-6677**