

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

PHILIP CALDERON, FARSHAD PINCHASI,
ALLISON FIELDS, and DANA FOLGAR,
*on their own behalf and on behalf of all others
similarly situated,*

Plaintiffs,

- against -

PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS, LLC,

Defendant.

Civ. Action No.:
1:25-cv-02320 (FB)(LKE)

**ORDER GRANTING PRELIMINARY SETTLEMENT APPROVAL AND
PRELIMINARILY CERTIFYING THE SETTLEMENT CLASS**

Based on Plaintiffs' Unopposed Motion for Preliminary Approval of the proposed class Settlement between Plaintiffs and Defendant, and good cause shown therein, Preliminary Approval, including Class Certification under Rule 23 for settlement purposes only, is GRANTED as set forth below in accordance with **Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23**, the FLSA, and other applicable law.

1. Certification for Settlement Purposes Only. Pursuant to **Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23** and the FLSA, the Court certifies, for settlement purposes only, the following Settlement Class:

Settlement Class: All current and former personal assistants who were paid through PPL as the statewide fiscal intermediary for services performed as part of CDPAP in New York City, Nassau County, Suffolk County, and/or Westchester County

(collectively, “downstate personal assistants”) at any time between March 1, 2025 and April 30, 2026.

2. In connection with certification, the Court makes the following findings for settlement purposes only:

- a. The Settlement Class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable;
- b. There are questions of law or fact common to the Settlement Class for purposes of determining whether this Settlement should be finally approved;
- c. The Class Representatives’ claims are typical of the claims being resolved through the proposed Settlement;
- d. The Class Representatives and their counsel are capable of fairly and adequately protecting the interests of the Settlement Class Members in connection with the proposed Settlement;
- e. Common questions of law and fact predominate over questions affecting only individual persons in the Settlement Class, making the Settlement Class sufficiently cohesive to warrant settlement by representation;
- f. Certification of the Settlement Class is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient resolution of the claims of the Settlement Class; and
- g. The requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(2) are met because the relief agreed to is appropriate respecting the class as a whole.

The object of settlement is to avoid a determination of contested issues. The parties vigorously dispute the merits of the case and whether this case could proceed as a class action. For purposes of settlement only, and without any prejudice to Defendant to oppose any motion for

class certification if the Settlement Agreement is not finally approved and the Parties are unable to reach another agreement, the Court finds Plaintiffs meet all of the requirements for class certification.

3. Class Counsel. Katz Banks Kumin LLP and The Legal Aid Society are hereby APPOINTED as Class Counsel.

4. Class Representatives. Philip Calderon, Farshad Pinchasi, Allison Fields, and Dana Folgar are hereby APPOINTED Class Representatives.

5. Preliminary Approval of the Settlement is warranted because the proposed settlement is within the range of reasonableness. The Court preliminarily finds the Settlement within the range of reasonableness based on:

- (a) the complexity, duration, and procedural posture of the Action;
- (b) the risks and costs of continued litigation;
- (c) the significant relief for Settlement Class Members;
- (d) the adequacy of representation Class Representative and Class Counsel provided;
- (e) the absence of fraud or collusion between the parties in reaching the Settlement;
- and
- (f) the equitable allocation of funds between class members.

6. Class Notice. The proposed notices are APPROVED for distribution in accordance with the Settlement Agreement. The parties are permitted to make non-substantive changes prior to distribution and posting, including to add applicable deadlines and contact information.

7. Atticus Administration LLC is APPOINTED as Settlement Administrator.

8. Opt-Outs and Objections. Putative Settlement Class Members shall have the right to opt out or to object to this Settlement pursuant to the procedures included in the Settlement Agreement. The deadline to opt out, or object is sixty (60) days from the Initial Notice Date.

9. Final Approval Hearing. A Final Approval Hearing is set for November 10, 2026 at 11:00 a.m., before Judge Lara K. Eshkenazi, at the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, 225 Cadman Plaza East, Brooklyn, New York 11201, Courtroom 13B South. The Court reserves the right to adjourn or continue the date of the final approval hearing and all dates provided for in the Agreement without further notice to Class Members and retains jurisdiction to consider all further applications arising out of or connected with the proposed Settlement.

10. The Action is stayed and all trial and any pre-trial dates are vacated, subject to further orders of the Court at the Final Approval Hearing.

Dated: July 1, 2026

Lara K. Eshkenazi
Honorable Lara K. Eshkenazi
United States Magistrate Judge