

Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall October 14, 2021

Trick or Treat in the Park

In partnership with PR Strong, the NYPD, RCDA and MetroPlusHealth my office will be hosting "Trick or Treat in the Park" on October 30th. From 11:30 AM - 3:00 PM, families can come out for games, candy and resources at Veterans Park located on Park Ave. and Bennett Street.

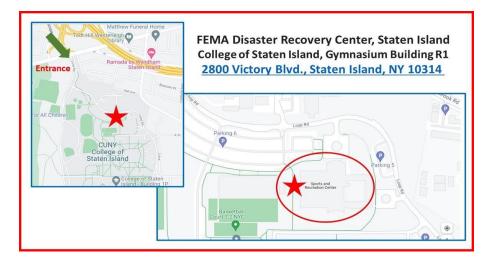


If you or a loved one has been affected by the storm click here to reach out to our office

See more resources below:

• <u>Click here to apply for FEMA if you have not done so already or call (800) 621 - 3362.</u>

- Tips for Appealing Decision from FEMA
- American Red Cross in Greater New York is providing temporary shelter for those affected 877.RED.CROSS.
 - College of Staten Island, Gymnasium Building R1 2800 Victory Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10314 is our local Disaster Recovery Center and will be open from 10 AM - 7 PM Monday - Saturday and closed Sunday until further notice.





FEMA DISASTER ASSISTANCE

To apply and get answers to your questions, call:

800-621-3362

711/VRS (Video Relay Service)

bank routing number

- Please have the following available:
- Your address with Zip code
 Condition of your damaged home
- Insurance information, if available
- Social Security number
- Social Security number
 Phone number where you can be contacted
 Address where you can get mail or email
- address to receive electronic notifications

Online registration

DisasterAssistance gov

Direct Deposit: Disaster assistance funds can be

sent directly to your bank account. Please provide your bank account type, account number and

Stay in touch with FEMA: When you apply, you will receive a FEMA registration number. Save it.

You will need the number whenever you contact

saster assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status.

FEMA.



District 61 News

PS 78 Food Pantry

I was proud to join the PS78 family and NYCID for the ribbon cutting for their new food pantry. It is our duty to provide our children with the basic necessities that set them up for success. This effort would not have been made possible without the generous donation of Stop and Shop and the leadership of Principal Contento.



Updates from Albany

Apply for Heating and Cooling Assistance (HEAP)

Need help paying your energy bill? Low-income New Yorkers can apply for heating and cooling assistance under the Home Energy Assistance Program, or HEAP.

Overview:

Please Note: The 2021-2022 Regular HEAP Benefit opened October 1, 2021.

What is HEAP?

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) helps low-income people pay the cost of heating their homes.

How does it work?

If you are eligible, you may receive one regular HEAP benefit per season and could also be eligible for an emergency HEAP benefit if you are in impending danger of running out of fuel or having your utility service shut off.

Are HEAP benefits available year-round?

No, the application period normally begins in early to mid-November and continues into the winter, until funding for the program runs out.

Does it matter what my home's heating source is?

HEAP may be able to help you if you heat your home with:

- Electricity
- Natural Gas
- Oil
- Coal
- Propane
- Wood/Wood Pellets
- Kerosene

Problem with your heating equipment?

You may call your <u>HEAP Local District Contact</u> to apply for Heating Equipment Repair and Replacement benefits. The in-person interview and application requirement are suspended. The district will provide more information on how to submit the application and required documentation.

Eligibility

Who is eligible to receive HEAP?

You may be eligible if:

- You and the members of your household are U.S. citizens, U.S. non-citizen nationals or qualified aliens.
- You provide a valid Social Security number for each household member.
- You receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, Temporary Assistance or Supplemental Security Income.
- Your monthly household income is at or below the HEAP income guidelines.
- You may be eligible for HEAP, even if you:
 - \circ Own your home.
 - Pay for heat as part of your rent.
 - \circ $\;$ Have money in the bank, stocks, bonds or other resources.

Learn more about current monthly income limits.

What is the Clean and Tune Benefit?

The HEAP Clean and Tune benefit opens November 4, 2019. Eligible households can receive energy efficiency services, which includes the cleaning of primary heating equipment, but may also include chimney cleaning, minor repairs, installation of carbon monoxide detectors or programmable thermostats, if needed, to allow for the safe, proper and efficient operation of the heating equipment. Benefit amounts are based on the actual cost incurred to provide clean and tune services, up to a maximum of \$400. No additional HEAP cash benefits are available.

Your household may be eligible a Heating Equipment Tune-up benefit if:

• You are the homeowner.

- Your household's gross monthly income is at or below the current income guidelines for your household size as posted on the following table.
- Your primary heating equipment is more than 12 months old.
- Your primary heating equipment or chimney has not been cleaned within the last 12 months
- You do not have a service contract with your vendor that includes clean and tune services

Your household eligibility requirements include filing an application with your local department of social services, providing all necessary documentation, and the household must reside in an eligible living situation.

Review <u>additional requirements</u> to determine if you're eligible to apply.

<u>Apply</u>

When HEAP season is open, you can apply for a Regular HEAP Benefit:

In person: Both New York City residents and non-New York City residents can apply in person at your <u>HEAP Local District Contact</u>.

In writing / by mail: New York City residents can mail their application to: HRA/HEAP, PO Box 1401, Church Street Station, New York, NY 10008

Please note: The above processes are for Regular HEAP benefits only. If you are facing an emergency situation outside the regular HEAP season, both New York City and non-New York City residents can apply for **Emergency HEAP Benefits** at your <u>HEAP Local District Contact</u>. If you are eligible, a HEAP emergency benefit may be issued in addition to your regular HEAP benefit.

Ready to apply? Have with you:

- Proof of residency with one of the following:
- Rent receipt with address.
- Copy of lease with address.
- Water, sewer or tax bill.
- Homeowner's insurance policy.
- Mortgage payment receipt.
- Deed.
- Utility bill.
- A current fuel or utility bill, or a statement from your landlord that your heat and/or utilities are included in your rent.
- Recent pay stubs to provide proof of total current monthly income for all household members.
- For each person in your household you will need one of the following:
 - Photo ID
 - Driver's license

- Birth certificate or baptismal certificate
- School records
- o Passport
- Paperwork documenting a disability for anyone in your household

Notes:

- Remember to sign your name on page 5 of the HEAP application.
- If you qualify for HEAP, you will be notified no later than 30 business days from the date the local district received your HEAP application.

Cooling Assistance

You can apply for cooling assistance to buy and install an air conditioner or a fan for your home. Your household is allowed one or the other, and the price cannot be more than \$800 with installation. Like HEAP funding, cooling assistance funds are limited and are distributed on a first-come-first-served basis.

You must be a U.S. citizen or a qualified alien with a documented medical condition that is aggravated by heat. You must also meet certain income guidelines. <u>Review additional</u> requirements to determine if you're eligible to apply.

The 2021-2022 HEAP Cooling Assistance benefit opens May 2, 2022.

Where to apply:

You may apply for the HEAP Cooling Assistance with your HEAP Local District Contact.



Critical Updates, New Policies, and Testing Locations to Protect You and Your Community

- <u>Governor Hochul announced that the MTA's nationally celebrated program to</u> <u>mentor local minority-owned, women-owned and disadvantaged businesses</u> (<u>MWBE</u>) has helped participating companies win a total of \$500 million in MTA <u>contracts since the state's program was founded in 2010</u>. A \$2 million contract to Alliance Tri-State Construction, Inc., of Staten Island was the decisive award that put the total over the half billion mark. It is the 485th contract to be awarded to a participating business since the start of the program. MTA Chief Diversity Officer Michael Garner and his team, working closely with MTA Construction & Development and the MTA's Office of Construction Oversight, have led the Authority to an unprecedented pace of activity in recent years, with hundreds of millions of dollars in contracts awarded.
- 2. Governor Hochul and Mayor Blasio announced \$27 million is available to provide relief to undocumented survivors of the storms and flooding caused by the remnants of Hurricane Ida. This funding will be distributed through grants to an established network of community organizations and provided to New Yorkers who are not eligible to receive storm recovery assistance through the FEMA Individual Assistance Program or other means. When I saw the devastation of Hurricane Ida, I pledged that we would do everything in our power to help impacted communities recover, and this funding is a fulfillment of that promise," Governor Hochul said. "With these resources dedicated to undocumented New Yorkers who are ineligible for FEMA relief and partnerships with organizations on the ground, we can close gaps in aid and help New Yorkers in need. I urge eligible New Yorkers to apply to get the funding they need to rebuild.
- 3. Construction permit fees as high as \$1,200 to be waived for NYC homes and businesses affected by Ida. Mayor de Blasio signed an executive order that waives permit fees related to storm-related reconstruction and improvements.
- 4. Governor Kathy Hochul today allocated \$59 million for the new Clean Green Schools initiative, which aims to advance clean energy and energy efficiency solutions that will improve indoor air quality and reduce emissions for more than 500 public and private Pre-K-12 schools in disadvantaged communities across the state. As part of the program, the State will convene education leaders this fall, including school superintendents, administrators, and educators, to inform the initiative launching in early 2022 to address climate justice issues and create improved, healthier learning environments for students. Today's announcement supports New York's nation-leading goal of an 85 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 under the Climate

Leadership and Community Protection Act (Climate Act).

- 5. Governor Hochul announced a series of changes to both attract more applications and accelerate payments within New York State's Emergency Rental Assistance Program. Under the Governor's direction, the state will invest an additional \$1 million in marketing and outreach efforts to raise awareness about the rent relief program, the available funding, and the strong tenant eviction protections in place for those who apply. The Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, which administers the program, will analyze application data to target areas of the state with relatively low numbers of applications.
- 6. Eligible individuals can schedule vaccine appointments by contacting:
 - The NYC Vaccine hotline at 877-829-4692 or <u>clicking here</u>
 - The NYS hotline at 888-364-3065 or <u>clicking here</u>
 - SOMOS, a community health provider at 833-766-6769
 - Eligible individuals will have to fill out a screening form and attest to being in an eligible category. Anyone who is NOT eligible for vaccination, should not sign up for an appointment. Click here to find updated vaccine eligibility lists, vaccine locations near you, and schedule a vaccine appointment when eligible.
 - <u>Click here for a COVID-19 vaccine fact sheet.</u>
- 7. Review the State guidelines for travelers arriving in New York State.
- View the Test-and-Trace Corps <u>COVID-19 Wait Times Dashboard</u> for estimated wait times for NYC Health + Hospitals COVID-19 testing locations. This wait time information is updated by site staff every two hours.
 - Use the DOH map to find all State-run testing sites.
 - Click here for a full list of NYC Health + Hospitals walk-in testing sites available at no cost to you on the North Shore.
 - Use the Phone-a-Clinician program with Health + Hospitals, by calling (844) NYC-4NYC. Call to connect with a medical provider free of charge seven days a week from 9 AM 9 PM.
 - Individuals that are unable to safely isolate themselves at home may be afforded a free temporary hotel room. Click here to learn more or call (844) 692-4692.
 Please click here if you have any further questions.

Crucial Resources to Support and Aid Your Everyday Needs

1. As part of their: October is Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign, RUMC is offering FREE mammograms at their Breast and Women's Center, located at 1161 Victory

Boulevard, Staten Island NY 10301. Appointments must be made before November 1st.



- 2. Applications will now be accepted for the *Landlord Rental Assistance Program* (*LRAP*), which provides rental assistance for landlords whose tenants are unwilling to apply for Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), including where the tenant has left the rental property. Assistance may be provided for households with rent up to 150 percent of the fair market rent (FMR) for the county where the property is located. Landlords seeking assistance under this program may apply <u>here</u>.
- 3. Drive Up Flu Shots are available October 16th, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Located at 460 Brielle Avenue *Staten Island*, NY 10314.



4. Free SNAP Assistance - See the flyer below





Free SNAP (Food Stamps) Assistance ASISTENCIA GRATUITA DE SNAP (Cupones de alimentos)

MetroPlus Health Staten Island Community Office 238A Port Richmond Ave. Staten Island, NY 10302 SNAP enroller is on site **2 DAYS a week.** Check below for our hours!

Los especialista de SNAP estan disponbile los 2 dias a la semana. ¡Revisa a continuación nuestros horarios y ubicaciones!

Day & Time Dia y Hora	Location <i>Ubicacion</i>	SNAP Enroller Especialista de SNAP	How to Schedule Como Programar
Tues, Wed <i>Martes, Miercoles</i> 9:00am – 4:30pm	In Office En la Oficina	Florence Lanipekun	Walk-in or call Orden de llegada o Llamar al 929-270-2181
Mon, Thurs, Fri Lunes, Jueves, Viernes 9:00am — 4:30pm	Virtual Services (Remote) Servicios Virtuales (Remoto)	Florence Lanipekun	Call <i>Llamar al</i> 929-270-2181
	of Temporary and Disability Assistan	se, ,qov to check your eligibility. This mater	ial was funded by
DAS Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - SNAP. s institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.			You can also scan to co us from our website

- 5. It's important to submit an SBA Loan Application After you apply for disaster assistance from FEMA, you may be referred to the U.S. Small Business Administration. If you are referred to SBA, you should complete and submit the application. If your application is approved, you are not obligated to accept the SBA disaster loan but failure to submit the application may disqualify you from other possible FEMA assistance, such as disaster-related car repairs, essential household items and other expenses. SBA disaster loans are the largest source of federal disaster recovery funds for survivors. In planning your recovery, give yourself the widest possible set of options. Submitting the application makes it possible for homeowners and renters to be considered for additional FEMA grants. Applicants may apply online using SBA's secure website at *DisasterLoanAssistance.sba.gov* or they may email *DisasterCustomerService@SBA.gov* for more information on SBA's disaster assistance program. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at **800-659-2955** or email *disaster assistance*.
- 6. If you're a renter having trouble paying your rent, utilities, or other housing costs or if you're a landlord trying to stay afloat with tenants in this situation help may be available. State and local programs are distributing billions of dollars in rental assistance to help renters stay housed during the pandemic. <u>Visit the CFPB's Rental Assistance Finder</u> to find out what this means for you and what you can do. The CFPB's site also includes resources to help renters and landlords

understand other resources to help navigate various financial hardships related to the pandemic.

7. Staten Island Legal Services wants to help you. If you need free legal help during the COVID-19 crisis, for matters of immigration, foreclosure, small business advice, and more, call them at 718-233-6480.



8. Project Hospitality provides a wide range of services to our communities. From vaccinations to mental health guidance to help applying for rental assistance. See flyers below for more information.











- Apoyo emocional
 Enlaces a recursos

- Proporcionamos presentaciones virtuales sobre: Reconcociendo las reacciones comunes de COVID Desarrollando habilidades de afrontamiento para el proceso de recuperación Manejando estres relacionada con COVID Identificando y satisfaciendo las necesidades de los niños

¡Contáctanos Hoy! 718-608-7900

HOPE@ProjectHospitality.org

Estamos aqui para USTED.

Gratis, anónimo y confidencial A program of the NYS Office of Mental Health Funded by FEMA

New York State Emergency Rental Assistance Program

The Emergency Rental Assistance Program assists households behind on their rent that have experienced financial hardship due to COVID-19 and are at risk of homelessness or housing instability. In addition, the program can provide temporary rental assistance and assistance with upgat utility bits.

DO LOUALIEY?

- Eligible residents must meet the following criteria:
- Household gross income at or blowing creater.
 Household gross income at or below 80 percent of area median income, which varies by courty and household size.
 A member of the household received unemployment benefits or experienced a reduction in income, incurred significant costs or experienced financial hardship, directly or indirectly, due to the COVID-19 particular due rent at their current residence.

Local Community Organization Information:

令

Call 929-724-5360 or email erap@projecthospitality.org for assistance submitting your application from one of Project Hospitality's ERAP enrollers.

Barger

HOW DOES IT WORK?

HOW DOES IT WORK? This assistance can pay up to 12 months of past due rent and for some households, pay up to 3 months for future rent. The program can also pay for up to 12 months of overdue electric or gas bills. Please note, payments will always be issued directly to the unidord or utility provider.

HOW CAN I APPLY? Applications can be submitted online beginning June 1.

For more information, visit otda.ny.gov/ERAP or call 844-NY1RENT (844-691-7368)



(Rev.05/21)

New York State Emergency Rental Assistance Program

El Programa de Asistencia para Alquileres de Emergencia ayuda a las familias atrasadas en el pago del alquiler que han sufrido dificutades financiensa debido a la COVID-19 y están en risego de quedarse en la calle o de padecen instabilidad por la falta de vivindar. Además, el regrama puede proporcionar asistenci de alquiler temporal y asistencia para el pago de facturas de servicios públicos vencidas.

CALIFICO?

- -Los residentes aptos para solicitar la asistencia deben cumplir con los siguientes criterio:
- Los ingress broks de la familia son iguales o inferiores al 80% del ingresso promedio del área, los ingress broks de la familia son iguales o inferiores al 80% del ingresso promedio del área, un mambro de la familia recibió substitós de desempleo o experimentó una reducción en los ingresso, incursó en costo significativos o sutrió dicultades financieras, directa o indirectamente, debido a la pandemia de COVID-19. El solicitante adeuda alquileres en su residencia actual.

Información de la organización comunitaria loca

令

Project Hospitality

Llame al 929-724-5360 o envie un correo

electronico a <u>erap@projecthospitality.org</u> para recibir asistencia con la solicitud de un Enroller de Project Hospitality.

COMO FUNCIONA?

Ecomo Functionar Esta asistencia puede pagar hasta 12 mesos de renta vencida y, para algunas famílias, pagar hasta 3 mesos da alguileros futuros. El programa también puede pagar hasta 12 mesos de facturas de electricidad o gas vencidas. Tenga en cuenta que los pagos siempre se emitrin directamente al proprietario a la provedior da esviciós públicos.

¿CÓMO PUEDO SOLICITARLA? Las solicitudes se pueden enviar en línea a partir del 1 de junio.

Para más información, visite otda.ny.gov/ERAP o llame al 844-NY1RENT (844-691-7368)



(Rev. 05/21)



- 9. Small Business Resources:
 - For counseling and help services through SBS click here. •

- <u>Procurement Center Representatives (PCRs)</u> help small businesses win federal contracts. PCRs view many federal acquisition and procurement strategies before they're announced. This enables them to influence opportunities that should be set aside for small businesses. PCRs also conduct market research, assist small businesses with payment issues, provide counseling on the contracting process, and more.
- <u>Subcontracting Program Assistance (SPA)</u> can help you with subcontracting questions after a contract is awarded. SPA can help you with tools to match prime contractors and subcontractors, help small businesses market their services to prime contractors, and more.
- SBA Learning Center. The SBA offers free online courses to help small businesses understand government contracting. You can find these video classes in the <u>SBA Learning Center</u>.

Useful Events and Opportunities

1. Everyone Eats and Metro Plus Health is hosting a Health Education workshop in English and Spanish from 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM on October 16th at #864 Post Ave.





2. McDonald's is proud to do its part to serve people in our communities who inspire and empower others. Starting October 11th through October 15th, McDonald's is bringing back the "Thank You Meal*," a program launched last year to express their appreciation for those who make our communities better.



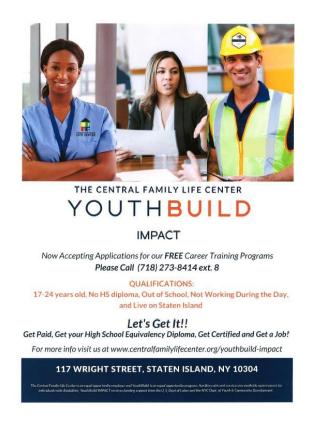
3. Visit <u>here</u> to sign up for Literacy Inc's October programs!



4. Snow season is coming! Become a paid emergency Snow Laborer to help us clear snow from steps, streets, crosswalks and fire hydrants after winter storms. Earn \$15/hour. Must make an appointment and be at least 18 years old. <u>Click here for more details.</u>



5. The Central Family Life Center is now accepting applications for their free Career Training Programs. **Call (718) 273-8414** ext.8 and see the flyer below for more information.



- 6. The NYS Department of Public Services has partnered with ECC Technologies to request consumers' help in better understanding their experience with broadband access in the state. Please take the brief survey <u>here.</u>
- 7. The Daffodil Project is the largest volunteer effort in NYC history and living memorial in remembrance of the victims of 9/11, now in it's 20th year. See the flyer below for dates and more information.



8. The Forest Ave. Comeunity Fridge is a group from Mariners Harbor looking to help out our community with Food Insecurity.

@FORESTAVECOMEUNITYFRIDGE

WHO ARE WE?

We are a collaborative group, born and raised on the North Shore, who are passionate about addressing the health food disparity in our neighborhood of Mariners Harbor. The foundation of our initiative is "take what you need, leave what you don't" and "we keep us fed and healthy!" – In hopes of creating a culture of unity, interdependence, community restoration and empowerment in Mariners Harbor.

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY FRIDGE?

A Community Fridge is a fridge that provides free and healthy food for community members. The fridges offer access to fresh produce, healthy grains and perishable items to communities that do not have a lot of access to healthy food options.





Your business can help by donating surplus food to our fridge or allowing us to purchase food at reduced costs. WHY SHOULD MY BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION CARE ABOUT A COMMUNITY FRIDGE?

In recent political and racial events, many businesses and organizations are looking for ways to fight against racial inequity. Community fridges represent mutual aid – the idea that solidarity not charity is what communities need in order to become fairer and stronger. By donating food to our fridge, your business will be taking part in our ongoing movement for creating justice – first within our communities.

Sincerely,

horde

Charles D. Fall Member of Assembly

ALBANY OFFICE: Room 534, Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12248. 518-455-4677, FAX 518-455-5946 DISTRICT OFFICE: 853 Forest Avenue, Staten Island, New York 10310. 718-442-9932, FAX 718-442-9942