

Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall January 6, 2022

Upcoming Events

Join my office in partnership with Covid Care and the Office of Mayor Eric Adams for a Rapid Self-Test Kit giveaway and PCR Testing



District 61 News

Rapid Self Test Kits

I was thrilled that the city could provide my office Rapid Self Test Kits to give out to our community. In a matter of hours, my office handed out a total number of 1,000 self-tests. I understand the importance of testing regularly during these times and will continue to provide testing opportunities whenever possible.



Small Business Spotlight

Lo'Kel-Li By the Three Amigas Vendor Market

Lo'Kel-li opened up right before the holiday season in 2021 by three small businesswomen on a mission to get local small businesses recognized as a force to be reckoned with amongst big businesses. The three women plan events and offer the space that gives small businesses the exposure they need during the pandemic. They are located at the Empire Outlets, 55 Richmond Terrace Level 3. Learn more about them here.



Updates from Albany

This week the 2022 Legislative Session officially began when Governor Hochul delivered her first State of the State address after becoming New York's 57th Governor. Here are some of the highlights set for this year.

Gun Violence

Amid surging numbers of incidents involving gun violence in the state, the Governor announced a series of initiatives that will strengthen gun tracing efforts, support successful local law enforcement programs, and invest in law enforcement data analysis and intelligence networks.

Education

Hochul wants to make the State's tuition assistance program available to part-time students. She is also anticipating launching a new "Jails-to-Jobs" initiative to provide incarcerated people with the help and support they need to find employment after release and stay employed. Additionally, she noted a plan to add more mental health professionals in schools.

Infrastructure

The Governor sent a clear message that throughout the next year and years to come the construction trades and New York infrastructure will be a priority statewide, bringing jobs and much needed highway, local road, airport and rail upgrades.

Advancing Healthcare Workforce

Mentioned in the address, Governor Hochul wants to increase the healthcare workforce by 20 percent over the next five years, in part through a \$10 billion investment, including \$4 billion to support wages and bonuses for healthcare workers.

Additionally, Hochul is calling on the state to provide direct financial support for the education of healthcare professionals, if they work in New York State for a specified period after obtaining their credentials. This would include free tuition, covering instructional costs for high demand health occupations and provide stipends to make up for lost income while in school. Money would also be provided to students for wraparound services such as childcare or transportation support.

Tax Relief

Hochul announced several steps to try and reduce New York's highest in the nation total tax burden.

- These include accelerating \$1.2 Billion in middle-class tax cuts for six million New Yorkers.
- A middle-class tax cut, begun in 2018 and scheduled to stretch out through 2025, the new administration wants to start providing the full benefit of the tax cut two years earlier, fully phasing-in the 2018 middle-class tax cut beginning in the 2023 tax year.
- Property tax rebate for than 2 million New Yorkers, with low-income households and seniors receiving higher benefits. Eligible homeowners will receive their benefit in 2022, to the tune of \$1 billion.
- Seeks to provide \$100 million in tax relief for 195,000 small businesses, to help them keep their doors open.
 - According to the Governor, this relief will come from increasing a tax return adjustment (known as a "subtraction modification") that reduces a small business's gross taxable income, as well as from widening eligibility to more entities.

The Environment

It was shared in the Governor's speech that a proposition on increasing the Environmental Bond Act to \$4 billion will go on the ballot this Fall so that we have the resources needed to reach climate change goals.

• \$500 million investment in offshore wind energy that will create thousands of goodpaying green jobs.

- In September, it was announced two clean energy mega-projects were set in place to put us on a path to achieve the ambitious goal of cutting 80% of New York City's power plant emissions by 2030. New construction in the State will be zero-emission by 2027, and we will build climate-friendly, electric homes and promote electric cars, trucks, and buses.
- In addition to the goals previously outlined in the state's Climate Act, the Governor announced that she will propose legislation to require that, by 2027, all new school bus purchases will be zero-emissions, and by 2035, all school buses on the road will be zero-emissions. Additionally, the legislation would enable school districts to contract for buses for longer than the current five-year limitation, expanding their ability to meet this goal.

Assistance to Veterans

The new administration is proposing to extend and enhance tax credits for hiring veterans, expand programs to help veterans navigate from military to civilian life, and to increase the minimum annual state funding for county and city veterans service agencies by 150%

Term Limits for Statewide Elected Officials

Announced prior to the State of the State Address, Governor Hochul is proposing a Constitutional amendment to limit all four statewide elected officials (Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General and Comptroller) to two consecutive four-year terms in office. Hochul also proposes that all statewide public officers be prohibited from seeking any work to supplement their income upon being elected (except academic positions approved by the ethics board).



"I am encouraged with the Governor's message this week. I can assure you that I will remain committed with working with the Governor, Speaker Heastie and my colleagues to assure that the above-mentioned initiatives have a positive impact for the residents of the North Shore of Staten Island."



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

- 1. Eligible individuals can schedule vaccine appointments by contacting:
 - The NYC Vaccine hotline at 877-829-4692 or clicking here
 - The NYS hotline at 888-364-3065 or clicking here
 - 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.
 - Click here for a COVID-19 vaccine fact sheet.
- 2. <u>Review the State guidelines for travelers arriving in New York State</u>.
- 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.
 - <u>Click here for a full list of NYC Health + Hospitals walk-in testing sites</u> 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. <u>Click here to learn more</u> or call (844) 692-4692.
 <u>Please click here if you have any further questions.</u>

Crucial Resources to Support and Aid Your Everyday Needs

- 1. Our children have faced many challenges throughout the pandemic. Now they're back at school and being asked to return to normalcy, but this school year is anything but normal. That's why the UFT's Positive Learning Collaborative (PLC) is offering free, confidential mental health sessions to students and to parents calling on their children's behalf. Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday: 8:30 A.M. to 12 P.M. Saturday: 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Call 212-709-3222 or Text "PLC" to 43961
- 2. The New York State Homeowner Assistance Fund (NYS HAF) is a federally funded program dedicated to assisting homeowners who are at risk of default, foreclosure or displacement as result of a financial hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The program will begin accepting applications January 3, 2022.

In the meantime, we encourage you to review the **Application Guide** which includes a **list of documents** you may need when you are ready to submit your application.

Administered by the New York State government's affordable housing agency, NYS Homes & Community Renewal (HCR), in partnership with a non-profit, Sustainable Neighborhoods, an organization dedicated to foreclosure prevention and homeownership preservation.

3. 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.

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!

Location Ubicacion	SNAP Enroller Especialista de SNAP	How to Schedule Como Programar
In Office En la Oficina	Florence Lanipekun	Walk-in or call Orden de llegada o Llamar al 929-270-2181
Virtual Services (Remote) Servicios Virtuales (Remoto)	Florence Lanipekun	Call <i>Llamar al</i> 929-270-2181
		ial was funded by
	In Office En la Oficina Virtual Services (Remote) Servicios Virtuales (Remoto)	In Office En la Oficina Virtual Services (Remote) Servicias Virtuales (Remoto) Florence Lanipekun Florence Lanipekun in Reach Virtuwavenbeenditarygov to check your eligibility. This mater ne Progen. SMP

- 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 estrelár elacionada 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 unpaid 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.

New York State Emergency Rental Assistance Program

El Programa de Asistencia para Alquileres de Emergencia ayuda a las familias atrasadas en el pago del alquier que han sufrido dificultades financieras debido a la CCVID-19 y están en reisgo de quedarse en la calle o de padecer inestabilidad por la falta de vivienda. Además, el programa puede proporcionar asistenci de alquier 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 criterios
- Los ingresos brutos de la familia son iguales o inferiores al 80% del ingreso promedio del área, que varia según el tamaño del condado y de la familia. Un miembro de la familia recisió subcitidos de desempleo e experimentó una reducción en los ingresos, incurrió en costos significativos os utifió dificultades financieras, directa o indirectamente, debido a la gandemia de COVID-19. El solicitante adeuda alquileres en su residencia actual.

HOW DOES IT WORK? Local Community Organization Information: ¿CÓMO FUNCIONA? 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 undiced or utility provider. Información de la organización comunitaria local: Esta asistencia puede pagar hasta 12 meses de renta vencida y, para algunas familias, pagar hasta 3 meses de algunas familias, la pogar nata mbién puede pagar hasta 12 meses de facturas de electricidad o gas vencidas. Trança en cuerta que los pagos siempre se emitirán directamente al propietario o al provedor de servicios públicos. 金 令 in Pro-Pr Call 929-724-5360 or email erap@projecthospitality.org for assistance submitting your application from one of Project Hospitality's ERAP enrollers. 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. HOW CAN I APPLY? ¿CÓMO PUEDO SOLICITARLA? Applications can be submitted online beginning June 1. Las solicitudes se pueden enviar en línea a partir del 1 de junio. For more information, visit otda.ny.gov/ERAP or call 844-NY1RENT (844-691-7368) Para más información, visite otda.ny.gov/ERAP o llame al 844-NY1RENT (844-691-7368) Office of Temporary state and Disability Assistance Office of Temporary STATE and Disability Assistance (Rev 05/21) (Rev. 05/21) **Project Hospitality** Los servicios del Project **Help Center Services** Project Centro de Ayuda estan Hospitality disponibles por via Telefonica! Hospitality **Are All Available By Phone!** S NUMEROS DE TELÉFONO REACH US AT 718-420-6466 OR 718-448-3470 718-420-6466 o al 718-448-3470 . Para obtener avi FOR HELP WITH SNAP, CALL 347-410-3657 CON SNAP (PROGRAMA DE ASISTENCIA NUTRICIONAL) LLAME AL 347-410-3657 Apply for Apply for Solicitar para **Solicitar** Solicitar un Apply SNAP WIC and Health WICV Seguro (programa de Insurance Medico o for SNAP Cash Asistencia asistencia or NYC Care **NYC Care** Assistance en efectivo nutricional) Servicios Domestic Mental Servicios de Servicios Legal Violence Health Violencia de Salud Services Legales **Domestica** Services Mental Services Despensa Ayuda en Apply Solicitud de Food Immigration des for casos de desempleo Help Pantry Unemployment alimentos Inmigracion 221 HEBERTON AVENUE, STATEN ISLAND, NV 10302 514 BAV ST. STATEN ISLAND, NV 10304 221 HEBERTON AVENUE, STATEN ISLAND NV 10302 514 BAV STREET STATEN ISLAND NV 10304.

The Central Family Life Center is now accepting applications for their free Career 9. Training Programs. Call (718) 273-8414 ext.8 and see the flyer below for more information.



10. Want to learn construction? For more information log into one of YouthBuild's info sessions Thursday January 6, 13, 20, 27 at 2:00 PM.



11. St. Ann's Creative Learning Center has open enrollment right now. Call 718-273-5371 for more information.



- 12. 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. Staten Island Testing Site 1/03/2022 - 1/09/2022



2. MetroPlusHealth would like to take this opportunity to invite everyone to their NYC Residence Career Fair & Health Awareness Event in partnership with Policy Research International, Jobs-Plus, EQUUS, WFS and Muslim Sisters of Staten Island.



MetroPlus Health in partnership with Policy Research International, Jobs-Plus Equus WS and Muslim Sisters of S.I. invites you to join us for a Career Fair and Health Awareness with Immigration information:

> Date/Time: January 15, 2022 1:00pm-4:00pm. Location: JCC Cornerstone Gerard Carter Center Address: 230 Broad St. Staten Island, N.Y. 10304

> > Open to ALL NYC residents

On-site resources on health insurance, job opportunities, immigration resources and more.





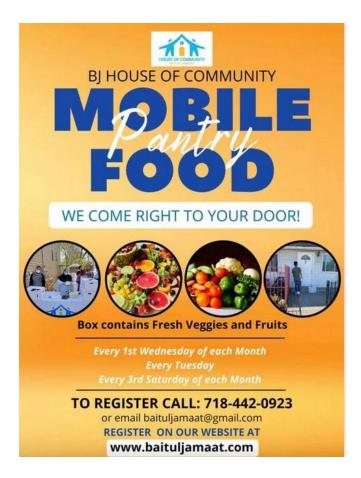
For more information, contact Patricia Walton at. P: 718.696.0521 / 917.817.7492 or waltopa@metroplus.org



3. The BJ House of Community and Little Essentials Presents Family Workshop to offer support and parenting education to families in need.



4. The BJ House Community - Mobile Pantry will come right to your door. Every first Wednesday of each month, every Tuesday, and every 3rd Saturday of each month.



5. 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.



HOW CAN MY BUSINESS HELP?

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,

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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