

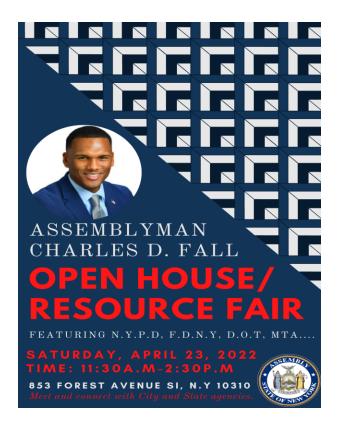
# Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall April 21, 2022

# **District 61 News**

Come join us tomorrow for a virtual town hall as we discuss the state budget allocations and the issues we are facing in our community.



Saturday April 23rd.



With the Holy month of Ramadan being observed, I am proud to join my colleagues around the city to host Iftar events. Thank you to Assemblymembers Stefani Zinerman and Al Taylor for their contributions towards the iftar in their districts.



## **Updates from Albany**

- The budget maintained the Verrazzano Narrows Bridge Resident Discount keeping it at \$5.50.
- With gas prices soaring, the budget includes a 16 cent per gallon gas tax holiday that will last from June 1 through December 31, 2022. This provision would also allow counties to cap their sales tax at \$4 per gallon.
- An investment in children's education is an investment in the future of New York.
   This year's budget includes an historic \$31.2 billion in School Aid, and \$21.3 billion in Foundation Aid. It also includes \$1.1 billion for Universal Prekindergarten.
- Attorney General's Homeowner Protection Program (HOPP). Staten Island Legal Services are thrilled about the inclusion of \$35 million in the final budget this year for HOPP. This funding will allow them to serve more homeowners who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and are facing mortgage and tax default and foreclosure.
- The Assembly Majority has long been dedicated to making college affordable.
   This budget also increases state support in operating revenue to raise the
   amount campuses receive for Excelsior Scholarship recipients by \$13.7 million
   for SUNY state operated campuses, \$2.1 million for SUNY community colleges
   and \$2.8 for CUNY senior colleges, for a total of \$18.6 million.
  - The SFY 2022-23 Enacted Budget also includes the following capital investments for SUNY and CUNY: \$225 million for SUNY and \$170 million for CUNY in additional capital funding; \$10 million for Educational Opportunity Centers; and \$3 million for the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies.

- Although the budget didn't include a 11% cost of living adjustment for direct care workers that serve our Intellectual and Developmentally Disabled, the enacted budget did allow for a 5.4% increase
  - \$1.2 billion was allocated for frontline healthcare worker bonuses ranging from \$500 to \$3,000, meant to attract workers to the state's health care sector, and retain existing workers. The budget specifies that the bonuses are not counted as income for the purposes of eligibility for public benefits, a move meant to allay the concerns of some advocates who worried that the increased income could make healthcare workers ineligible for programs such as food stamps. (SIDDC)
- The Enacted State Budget included Nearly \$7.4 billion will be allocated to a \$3-an-hour boost to the wages of home health care workers. They will receive a \$2-per-hour raise this October, and an additional \$1-per-hour raise next year. Home care advocates have been pushing for a wage increase up to 150% of the local minimum wage. (1199/SEIU)
- Six years ago, New York became the first state in the nation to fund the My Brother's Keeper initiative. The initiative focuses on family and community engagement, professional development, the expansion and development of exemplary school practices and models, and addresses issues related to restorative justice and racial disparities in education.
- The SFY 2022-23 Budget includes \$18 million in ongoing funding for My Brother's Keeper programs, for a total of \$126 million in funding since the program's creation.

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

1. Governor Kathy Hochul has announced the Environmental Facilities Corporation Board of Directors approved \$41 million in funding that includes low-cost loans and previously awarded grants, enabling the recipients to access these loan and grant funds and move their water and sewer infrastructure projects forward. The Board also approved an \$879 million leveraged bond financing to provide capital for various wastewater and drinking water projects for the New York City Municipal Water Finance Authority (NYCMWFA) and to refund certain prior bonds. Refunding bond sales deliver additional savings for EFC's municipal partners by refinancing the original bonds that

- funded their projects at an even lower interest rate. The transaction is estimated to save \$18 million for New York City ratepayers over the next 10 years.
- 2. Governor Kathy Hochul today announced that \$17.3 million in state funding was awarded to six projects in four counties that will provide emergency and permanent supportive housing to New Yorkers experiencing homelessness. Supported through the State's Homeless Housing and Assistance Program, these projects include emergency shelter repairs and developments that will create or preserve an additional 120 units serving veterans, survivors of domestic violence, individuals with a history of substance use disorder, and those suffering from serious mental illness.
- 3. Governor Hochul announced that the statewide indoor business mask-or-vaccine requirement have bee lifted as of Thursday, February, 10, and will remain optional for businesses, local governments and counties to enforce. This protocol, a temporary measure implemented on December 10 as statewide cases spiked, was an effective tool to address the winter surge and the rise of the Omicron variant. With case counts plummeting and hospitalizations sharply declining, this temporary measure is no longer needed statewide. Counties, cities, and businesses will be able to opt into the mask-or-vaccine requirement if they so choose. View Governor Hochul's Presentation Here
- 4. Governor Kathy Hochul today announced more than \$64 million in federal funding to help struggling New Yorkers with children, multi-generational households, and survivors of domestic violence with their expenses amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Administered through the state Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance and the state Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, the Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund will provide one-time payments to help with the cost of diapers for struggling families, cover food expenses for households with both children and older adults, and provide crucial housing and relocation assistance for survivors of domestic violence.

# **Crucial Resources to Support and Aid Your Everyday Needs**

1. The NYS Homeowner Assitance Fund is available now. You may be eligible for up to \$50,000 in financial assistance.



2. Important: The NYS Department of Labor will mail 1099-G tax forms to all Excluded Workers Fund (EWF) recipients to the address listed on their EWF application. The information from this form must be included in tax filings for the 2021 calendar year. As you may know, payments from the EWF are considered taxable income. Although payments were mailed with state taxes already taken out, they may still be subject to federal income tax. For more information click here.



3. 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

- 4. 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.
- 5. 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 Ubicacion	SNAP Enroller Especialista de SNAP	How to Schedule Como Programar
Tues, Wed Martes, Miercoles 9:00am – 4:30pm	In Office En la Oficina	Florence Lanipekun	Walk-in or call Orden de llegada o Llamar al <b>929-270-2181</b>
Mon,Thurs, Fri Lunes, Jueves,Viernes 9:00am — 4:30pm	Virtual Services (Remote) Servicios Virtuales (Remoto)	Florence Lanipekun	Call <i>Llamar al</i> <b>929-270-2181</b>

Sponsored by New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance.

SNAP.—Putting Healthy Food Within Reach. Visit www.mybenefits.my.gov to check your eligibility. This material was funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - SNAP.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



6. 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 <a href="mailto:DisasterLoanAssistance.sba.gov">DisasterLoanAssistance.sba.gov</a> or they may email <a href="mailto:DisasterCustomerService@SBA.gov">DisasterCustomerService@SBA.gov</a> for more information on SBA's disaster assistance program. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 or email

<u>disastercustomerservice@sba.gov</u> for more information on SBA disaster assistance.

- 7. 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. Visit the CFPB's Rental Assistance Finder 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.
- 8. **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.**



9. 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.



# Feeling uncertain, overwhelmed, anxious during COVID?



Here to talk | Here to listen | Here to support

- Information
   Education
- Emotional support Links to resources

We can provide virtual presentations on:

- Recognizing common reactions on:
   Building coping skills for the recovery process
- Managing COVID-related stress
   Identifying and meeting children's needs

Contact Us! (718)608-7900 HOPE@ProjectHospitality.org

We are here for YOU.

Free, anonymous & confidential

A program of the NYS Office of Mental Health Funded by FEMA



# Necesitas Te sientes incierto, agobiado, ansioso durante COVID?

Aquí para hablar | Aquí para escuchar | Aquí para apoyar

Nosotros Proporcionamos...
Información
Educación

- Apoyo emocional
   Enlaces a recursos

- Proporcionamos presentaciones virtuales sobre:

  Reconcociendo las resciones comunes de COVID

  Desarrollando habilidades de afrontamiento para el proceso de recuperación

  Manejando estritis 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









10. The BJ House Community - Mobile Pantry will come right to your door. Every first Wednesday.

(Rev. 05/21)



11. This robust 6-week community training program informs NewYorkers about NYPD policies, activities, and authorities.



12. The Y is now offering new rounds of FREE lifeguard training and certification this spring, including at the Broadway Y. Pre-tests are required for this opportunity and are currently underway, with lots of times and dates at Ys across the city. Experienced swimmers should see here for details and scheduling.



### 13. Small Business Resources:

- For counseling and help services through SBS click here.
- Procurement Center Representatives (PCRs) 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 SBA Learning Center.

# **Useful Events and Opportunities**

1. Help support your neighborhood schools - For more information click here



2. Put your swimming skill to the ultimate test. Become an NYC Lifeguard – help keep New York's beaches and pools safe and develop skills that will last a lifetime.



3. Metro Plus Health & Phenomenal Women Association Time: 10:00 AM- 4:00 PM



4. Youth Build Healthcare Worker



5. Youth Build Construction Worker.



6. Central Family life center upcoming events.





7. The JCC of Staten Island providing a no cost training programs for Staten Island and NYC residents.





8. The Forest Ave. Community 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.

# 8. UAU Mommy & Me Paint & Sippy Cup



### 9. Catholic Charities Resource Fair



Sincerely,

Charles D. Fall Member of Assembly

ALBANY OFFICE: Room 729, 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