

Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall September 10, 2021

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

See more resources below:

- American Red Cross in Greater New York is providing temporary shelter for those affected 877.RED.CROSS.
- The Muslim American Society at 180 Burgher Ave. is providing temporary shelter for those affected Contact Abdullah Akl at 917-825-9763.
- Low-income Staten Islanders with a time-sensitive, one-time financial need under \$3,000 caused by the flooding may contact Rev. Karen Jackson, Project Hospitality's Director of Community Initiatives, at kjackson@projecthospitality.org to be considered for a one-time emergency cash grant. Grants are made out to the vendor and not the individual. Please be prepared to provide proof of income and other relevant documentation.
- NYC Water Damage or Loss Claim Form from <u>NYC Comptroller's Office</u>: Claim must be filed in person or by registered or certified mail within 90 days of the occurrence at the NYC Comptroller's Office, 1 Centre Street, Room 1225, New York, New York 10007. It must be notarized.

District 61 News

Department of Financial Services Mobile Command Center

My office will have personnel from the Department of Financial Services every day through September 12th from 9:00AM-5:00PM to answer any questions you may have about recovery from Hurricane Ida.



September 6th-September 12th 9:00AM-5:00PM Office of Assemblymember Charles D. Fall 853 Forest Ave.

Get in person help from DFS personnel with information regarding policy coverage for losses and suggestions on how to document losses and safeguard property.

For more information, please contact me at fallc@nyassembly.gov

Updates from Albany

Update on the Excluded Worker Fund:

The Excluded Workers Fund was created to bring financial relief to thousands of workers across the state who lost income during the pandemic and did not qualify for government-issued COVID-19 benefits is in the final approval stages.

• Applicants can apply online 24/7, and DOL's 600-person multi-lingual call center is available seven days a week, from 7 AM to 7 PM.

- The EWF application process utilizes state-of-the-art technology, including an EWF virtual assistant that can provide applicants with their application's status throughout the process.
- Applicants can also speak with a live representative or receive a callback in 24 to 48 hours. The application and an FAQ document are available in 13 different languages on the **Department of Labor's EWF page.**
- Approved applicants receive one of two benefit amounts based on the level of work eligibility documentation they provide in addition to verifying their identity and residence.
- Tier 1 qualifiers receive \$15,600 and Tier 2 qualifiers receive \$3,200.
- To date, more than 10,000 applicants have been approved to receive funds, with nearly 40,000 more in the final approval phase.
- Of those, 99 percent have qualified for Tier 1 benefits.
- Approved applicants receive a one-time payment on a prepaid card mailed to the address provided in the application. Cards allow for cash withdrawal or purchases with merchants.
- Like unemployment insurance claims, the safeguards and fraud detection built into the thorough review process are designed to ensure that funds go to eligible applicants, not scammers.
- DOL plans to make available a real-time dashboard that will provide the latest EWF program data.

DATA POINTS:

- Since August 1, 2021, over 90,000 New Yorkers have applied.
- Nearly \$250 million has already been distributed.
- An additional \$600 million is in the final approval process
- Of the non-English applications received so far, the three most popular languages were Spanish (32%), Chinese (2.97%), and Korean (1.1%).
- Applications have also been received in Arabic, Bengali, French, Haitian Creole, Italian, Polish, Russian, and Urdu.
- 54% of the workers approved are between the ages of 30 and 39

"Payments from the Excluded Workers Fund are providing vital financial relief to workers who drive economic growth in communities across the state. This is the right thing to do for those New Yorkers who have contributed so much to our state but couldn't receive benefits when they lost work during the pandemic."

Update on the Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program:

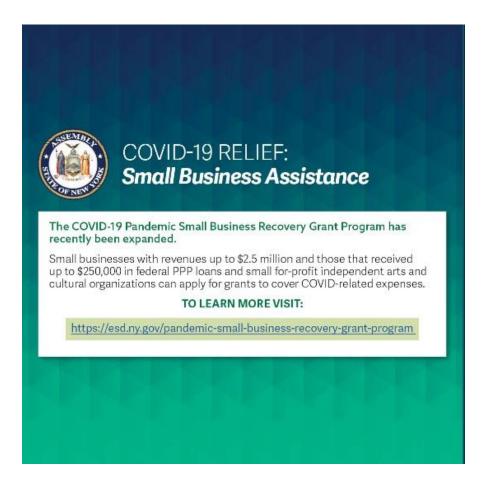
The COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program, which helps with small

and micro businesses and small for-profit independent arts and cultural organizations who experienced a COVID-related financial hardship, **has recently been updated to expand eligibility.** Passed as part of this year's state budget, the \$800 million program is still open and accepting applications.

• Eligible uses of grant funds include business costs incurred between March 1, 2020, and April 1, 2021, such as: payroll, rent, mortgage, property and school taxes, insurance, utilities and pandemic-related expenditures that were necessary to protect workers and customers.

EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY:

- The revenue threshold for businesses was increased from \$500,000 to **\$2.5 million**
- Businesses that received up to **\$250,000 in federal PPP loans** are now eligible the previous threshold was \$100,000



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

- 1. 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.
- Governor Hochul Announces \$6 Million for Climate Justice Fellowships Benefitting Disadvantaged Communities and Priority Populations. The state will support 150 Climate Justice Fellowship opportunities for people across the state in order to ensure an equitable clean energy transition for all New Yorkers.
- 3. <u>Governor Hochul announced a series of changes to both attract more applications</u> <u>and accelerate payments within New York State's Emergency Rental Assistance</u> <u>Program.</u> 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.
- 4. The Mayor announced the Key to NYC vaccination mandate for indoor dining, entertainment and fitness has begun, August 17th. Enforcement will begin, with a multi-agency coalition, on September 13th. Read the Executive Order here. "New York City has one mission: defeat the delta variant and build a recovery for all of us," said Mayor Bill de Blasio. "The Key to NYC sends a powerful message that vaccination will unlock our city's potential, and we'll stop at nothing to save lives and keep New Yorkers safe."
- 5. New Yorkers can get \$100, free tickets, memberships, or gifts for getting vaccinated against COVID-19. These giveaways will be available for a limited time. If you get your first vaccine dose at a New York City-run vaccine location, you will be eligible to choose one of the incentives listed below, including a \$100 prepaid debit card. You can also call 877-VAX4NYC (877-829-4692) to learn more. Book an appointment at any site listed on the NYC COVID-19 Vax4NYC Appointment Scheduler or call 877-VAX4NYC (877-829-4692) to find a participating site.
- 6. 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.
- 7. <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.
 - <u>Use the DOH map to find all State-run testing sites.</u>
 - <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. SCORE Staten Island is a nonprofit association dedicated to helping both aspiring and established entrepreneurs get off the ground, grow and achieve their goals through cost-free education and a confidential mentorship. The organization is Chapter 476 of the nationwide SCORE. As a resource partner with the U.S. Small Business Administration, SCORE is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the SBA. It has both local mentors who have proved to be successful in their fields, and a network of 10,000 volunteer mentors across the country providing web-based seminars and resources. It can provide:
 - Volunteer mentors who share their expertise across many different industries
 - Free, confidential business mentoring in person, via email, phone, or video
 - Free business tools, templates, and tips online
 - Inexpensive or free business workshops (locally) and webinars (online 24/7)
 - For additional information, or to schedule an appointment, SCORE-Staten Island may be visited <u>here.</u> Or you call them at 718-727-1221; email at <u>info@scoresi.org</u> and visit on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>LinkedIn</u>.
- 2. 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</u> <u>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.
- 3. 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.



4. 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.

Need to talk?



Here to talk | Here to listen | Here to support

We provide . . .

- InformationEducation
- 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



We are here for YOU.

NY Project Hope Coping with COVID

Free, anonymous & confidential A program of the NYS Office of Mental Health Funded by FEMA

Necesitas Te sientes hablar?

incierto, agobiado, ansioso durante COVID?

Aquí para hablar | Aquí para escuchar | Aquí para apoyar





NY Project Hope

Nosotros Proporcionamos... Información Educación 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 estár esidacionada 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 uppaid utility bils.

DO I QUALIFY?

- Eligible residents must meet the following criteria:
- gible residents must meet the following ortena: Hoursehold gross income at or below 80 percent of area median income, which varies by coursy and hoursehold size. A member of the hourseholt excelved unemployment banefits or experienced a reduction in income, incurred significant costs or experienced financial hardship, directly or indirectly, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The applicant owes past due rent at their current residence.

Local Community Organization Information:

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

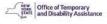
HOW DOES IT WORK?

HOW DOES IT WORK? This assistance on 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 landlord 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 Alquieres de Ernergencia ayuda a las familias atrasadas en el pago del alquier que han sufrido dificutades financieras debido a la COVID-19 y están en riesgo de quedarse en la calle o de padecen instabilidad por la falta de vivinda. Además, el programa puede proporcionar asistencia 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 representados de la familia son gazánes a finiteriore a 100% del ingreso promotio del área, que varia segunia tamaño del concida y de la familia.
 Un miembro de la familia recibió subsitiós de desempleo o experimentó una reducción en los ingresos, incurrió en costos significativos o subri dificultades financieras, directa o indirectamente, debido a la pandemia del COVID-19.
 El solicitante aducta aducta en su realidoncia actual.

Información de la organización comunitaria local

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.

介 Protection

COMO FUNCIONA?

¿COMO FUNCIONA? Esta asistencia puede pagar hasta 12 meses de renta vencida y, para algunas familias, pagar hasta 3 meses de alquiteres futuros. El programa también puede pagar hasta 12 meses de facturas de electricidad o gas vencidas. Tenga en cuenta que los pagos siempos e emitrían directamente al propietario o al proveedor de servicios 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)



- 5. 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. UAU is hosting a September 11th Day of Service on the 20th annual observance next month. For more information contact: SShapiro@unitedactivities.org



2. Planning a music curriculum? Educators in the New York City area are invited to apply for Link Up: Carnegie Hall's interactive curriculum that introduces students in grades 3–5 to the orchestra. This year, students explore what makes a great melody in The Orchestra Sings curriculum as they dive into works by Beethoven, Stravinsky, Reena Esmail, and more. At the end of the year, students sing and play the recorder with a professional orchestra in an inspiring culminating concert at Carnegie Hall in May

2022. For more information about Link Up or to apply for the 2021-2022 school year, please visit here or email the Link Up team at linkup@carnegiehall.org.

3. On September 21st, the Port Authority is working with the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce is hosting a virtual business certification webinar for Minority & Women-Owned Business Enterprises (M/WBE) and Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Businesses (SDVOB). The webinar will walk through how a small business can get registered with the PA, the types of businesses we need, and who to connect with to get more information. See the flyer below for more information.



4. The YMCA is looking for counselors. Full-time and part-time positions are available. Learn more by <u>clicking here</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 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 COMMONITY FREDGE?

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