

## Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall October 7, 2021

## FEMA Constituent Assistance - Tonight October 7th, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Representatives from FEMA will be sharing information about aid available in the aftermath of Ida and answering questions about the application and appeal process. <u>You can register here.</u>



#### October 7th 6:00PM-7:00PM

**Register here: https://bit.ly/FEMAassistance** 

Speak with representatives from FEMA who specialize in individual assistance that may help you and members of your household affected by Ida take care of necessary expenses and serious needs that cannot be met through insurance or other forms of assistance.

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

### 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>.
- 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. Site will be open 10/11.



ble without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status.

# District 61 News

#### **Healthy Bodega Initiative**

It is great to see the Clementine Collective and the Healthy Bodegas Initiative come to Columbia Meat Market. We must continue to promote healthy eating and make sure we are removing barriers to access healthy foods. Thank you to SIUH Northwell Health, HEALTH for Youths, SIPCW, and to Vincent from Columbia Meat Market.



## John Tobin Street Renaming

Coach John Tobin was a remarkable role model for so many Staten Islanders growing up. He was a person that showed us the difference just one adult can make in a child's life. I am so proud to see a street renamed in his honor.



## Yemeni Heritage Day

I want to congratulate the Yemeni American Merchants Association for a successful first Yemeni Heritage Day. This celebration for Yemeni Americans was a beautiful culmination of their heritage and culture. I will always be committed to fighting for a better future for our Yemeni brothers and sisters.



## **Updates from Albany**

# New York State requires OMH psychiatric hospitals and OPWDD certified specialty hospital employees to have at least one vaccine shot by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Governor Hochul announced the plan to expand the healthcare worker vaccine mandate to include employees who work in certain facilities offering health care to individuals served by the Office of Mental Health and the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities.

- Under the new directive, staff who work in settings that treat some of the most vulnerable New Yorkers will be required to show proof of at least the first shot of a COVID-19 vaccine series by November 1st, without a test-out option.
- Ahead of that requirement, staff in these settings will be required to submit to weekly testing, if unvaccinated, beginning October 12th.
- The vaccine requirement that went into effect on September 27th applied only to covered personnel at facilities regulated by the Department of Health, including all hospitals and nursing homes.
- On October 7th, the vaccine requirement will take effect for covered personnel at additional facilities regulated by the Department of Health, including adult care facilities, home health agencies, long term home health care programs, AIDS home care programs, hospice care, and diagnostic and treatment centers.
- This new requirement, established within OMH and OPWDD agency regulations, will apply to all individuals working at the psychiatric hospitals in the OMH network, as well as those working at the specialty hospital certified by OPWDD.
- Governor Hochul plans to continue expanding the vaccine requirement into the human service and mental hygiene care settings in the coming weeks, while also taking

necessary steps to ensure staffing levels continue to be appropriate across those service systems.

"As we all continue to work together towards ending this pandemic, mandates are often hard to swallow, but many of the professionals at OMH and OPWDD serve individuals with underlying medical conditions that make them far more vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus.

The vaccine has proven to be safe and effective and will protect our most vulnerable individuals as well as our families and communities. I continue to urge everyone to get the vaccine."

### 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. <u>Governor Kathy Hochul today allocated \$59 million for the new Clean Green</u> <u>Schools initiative, which aims to advance clean energy and energy efficiency</u>

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 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.
  - 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. 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 1.



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 9th and 16th, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Located at 460 Brielle Avenue *Staten Island*, NY 10314.



4. 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.sba.gov* for more information on SBA disaster assistance.

## 5. MTA Announces Customers Count & COVID Travel Survey

The MTA regularly conducts surveys to help better understand customer preferences and travel behaviors. If you are a subway, bus, Access-A-Ride Paratransit, Staten Island Railway, Long Island Rail Road, or Metro-North Railroad customer, <u>please take this</u> <u>survey</u>. Your responses are very important even if you are not currently using MTA

services. The results will help inform decision making and improve service. This survey should only take about 15 minutes to complete. Upon completion of the survey, you can choose to be entered into a drawing to win one of ten \$100 gift cards. If you use more than one MTA service, you will be given an opportunity to take the survey again for a different service, and you'll increase your chances of winning. You can take the survey for up to two different MTA services.

We encourage you to take time to complete this important survey by October 4, 2021.

- 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.

# 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 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

**Project Hospitality** 

**Help Center Services** 

**Are All Available By Phone!** 

Health

# 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)

REACH US AT 718-420-6466 OR 718-448-3470

FOR HELP WITH SNAP, CALL 347-410-3657

**Apply for** 

WIC and

Cash

Assistance

Domestic

Violence

Services

Food

Pantry

221 HEBERTON AVENUE, STATEN ISLAND, NV 10302 514 BAV ST. STATEN ISLAND, NV 10304



Project

Hospitality

A MESSAGE WI

Apply

for SNAP

Legal

Services

Apply

for

Unemployment

#### (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 provedor 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)





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

Help

- <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**

 The Central Family Life Center presents: The Women's Health Series. On Thursday, October 7th from 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM is their virtual event and Saturday, October 9th from 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM is their Women's Health Fair. See the flyer below for more details.



2. 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.





3. Sunday, October 9th. From 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM, you can enjoy a free Health and Resource Fair at Tompkinsville Park, 45 Victory Boulevard & Bay Street. For more information, please contact Patricia Walton at waltopa@metroplus.org or 718.696.0521.



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



5. 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. Click here for more details.



6. 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.



- 7. 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>
- 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,

hords

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