

### Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall November 24, 2021

# District 61 News

## Happy Thanksgiving

<u>I wanted to share a brief message with you before the holiday.</u> Wishing you and yours a happy, safe & healthy Thanksgiving.



### Announcing our Baseball Team's New Name

I had a great time celebrating the announcement of our baseball team's new name, the Ferry Hawks. I'm excited to continue to support them building year-round community focused entertainment for all.



## Food Giveaway with Hunts Point Produce Market

I was grateful to give back to the community with Hunts Point Produce Market as part of their Staten Island stop during their "Week of Giving" leading up to Thanksgiving.



### Advocating for our Special Needs Community

As someone who had a close family member with special needs, I know how important it is that our schools that serve them have all the resources that they need to support their students. I was proud to stand with my colleagues and the Eden II family to advocate for parity funding and for Governor Hochul to sign the legislation that I cosponsored, A.8013, into law.



Sunday Service at St. Philips and Reach Out & Touch Ministries

This Sunday I was honored to join St. Philips and Reach Out & Touch Ministries for their Sunday service. Our houses of worship are the bedrock of our community and I greatly appreciate the continued guidance and support from our faith leaders on the North Shore.





# Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway

Last night, I partnered with COJO, Project Hospitality, Governor Hochul, Senator Savino, Assemblyman Cusick, and the NYPD to give away over 100 turkeys. I am thankful for all of our community partners that always show up to help those in need.



## **Updates from Albany**

Both Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie and Senate Democratic Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins formally requested an additional \$996 million from the Federal Reserve for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). These funds would help New York meet the demands of constituents still in need of aid due to COVID-19 hardships.

- New York has already distributed \$1.02 billion in direct rental arrears payments to over 81,000 landlords to date and approved an additional \$1.09 billion to another 86,000 landlords while the State awaits final application verification.
- While the State's Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) has been instrumental in providing relief to New York renters and their landlords to date, the scope of need across the State will exhaust the original \$2.6 billion federal allocation.
- Many New Yorkers who would otherwise be eligible for federal assistance will not receive financial relief unless additional funds are authorized.
- New York State has the highest percentage of residential tenant households of any state in the country, with nearly half of New Yorker households living in rental units.
- Similarly, with monthly rents well exceeding the national average, nearly half of New York's rental households meet the Department of Housing and Urban Development's definition of being "rent burdened".
- At least half a million tenants in New York City alone were or are in rent arrears due to the financial challenges caused by the pandemic.
- While federal COVID-19 relief has lifted many tenants out of crisis, hundreds of thousands of tenants continue to face significant rent debt across the state. Those households are at high risk of housing instability.
- ERAP has been an instrumental and highly successful tool for the timely and responsible distribution of federal funding, with over \$2.1 billion allocated or committed to date. Since the program's launch in June of this year, the State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) has received over 278,000 ERAP applications, far exceeding the current program's financial limitations.
- Without additional federal assistance in the form of reallocated Emergency Rental Assistance funding, our State program will be unable to fulfill unresolved, yet qualified applications.



"I commend Speaker Heastie and Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins for taking additional steps to assist our renters and landlords. I look forward to continuing my work with my colleagues and leadership to address the many concerns facing all New Yorkers during the pandemic recovery process."

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

- <u>Governor Kathy Hochul Signed Legislation Codifying the Nourish New York</u> <u>Program into Law</u>. Governor Hochul signed this legislation into law before Thanksgiving to reaffirm New York's commitment to providing support to those facing food insecurity across the state. The Nourish New York initiative reroutes New York's surplus agricultural products to the populations who need them most through the state's food banks. The program also provides much-needed support for the food producers and farmers who have lost markets as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic because the state's food banks are buying agricultural products from New York farmers and food processors.
- 2. 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.
- 6. <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. <u>The 2021-2022 Regular HEAP Benefit opened October 1, 2021</u> 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.

3. 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
<b>Tues, Wed</b> <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 <b>929-270-2181</b>
<b>Mon, Thurs, Fri</b> 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>
PPutting Healthy Food Wi		e. .gov to check your eligibility. This mater	
DA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - SNAP. s institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.			You can also scan to co us from our website

- 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*.
  - 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 unpaid utility bils.

### DO LOUALIEY?

HOW DOES IT WORK?

HOW CAN I APPLY?

(Rev 05/21)

- 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.

#### 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. Local Community Organization Information: 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. COMO FUNCIONA? Información de la organización comunitaria loca Comer Lattoria puede paga hasta 12 meses de Esta asistoncia puede paga hasta 12 meses de renta vencida y, para algunas famílias, pagar hasta 3 meses de alquieres futuros. El programa también puede paga hasta 12 meses de facturas de electricidad o gas vencidas. Tenga en cuenta que los pagos siempes es emitrían directamente al propietario o al proveedor de servicios públicos. 令 令 11 Pro Project Hospitality Call 929-724-5360 or email erap@projecthespitality.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. Applications can be submitted online beginning June 1. ¿CÓMO PUEDO SOLICITARLA? 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) **Project Hospitality** Los servicios del **Help Center Services** Project Centro de Ayuda estan Hospitality disponibles por via Telefonica! **Are All Available By Phone!** S NUMEROS DE TELEFONO 718-420-6466 o al 718-448-3470 . Para obtener avi CON SNAP (PROGRAMA DE ASISTENCIA NUTRICIONAL) LLAME AL **347- 410-3657** Apply for Apply for Solicitar para Solicitar Solicitar un SNAP WIC and Health WIC y Seguro

- Project Hospitality REACH US AT 718-420-6466 OR 718-448-3470 FOR HELP WITH SNAP, CALL 347-410-3657 Apply (programa de Insurance Medico o for SNAP Cash Asistencia asistencia or NYC Care **NYC Care** Assistance en efectivo nutricional) Domestic Mental Servicios Servicios de Servicios Legal Violence Health Violencia de Salud Services Legales **Domestica** Services Services Mental Despensa Ayuda en Apply Solicitud de Food Immigration des for casos de desempleo Help Pantry Unemployment alimentos Inmigracion 221 HEBERTON AVENUE, STATEN ISLAND, NY 10302 514 Bay St. Staten Island, Ny 10304 221 HEBERTON AVENUE, STATEN ISLAND NY 10302 514 bay street staten Island Ny 10304
- 9. State parks and historic sites are staffed by a core of permanent employees who work year-round to maintain these precious resources. During the peak of our operating season (May through September) the permanent staff is supplemented by several thousand seasonal employees who work to ensure that our patrons have a positive and safe experience when visiting our sites.

# 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 cr

- Be a part of the premier park system in the United States with more than 250 state parks, historic sites, golf courses, swimming pools, beaches, campgrounds, marinas, trails, and museums and nature centers.
- Work in some of the most beautiful, scenic, and historic places New York State has to offer.
- Make a tangible impact on your community. Parks are for everyone, and all are welcome here: People of every age, ability, color, or creed belong here without exceptions yourself included! People of every kind come visit us in order to have *experiences* and at OPRHP, we get to be part of these special times in truly meaningful ways. See how you can make a difference as a part of Team OPRHP! To learn more about seasonal or permanent employment click here.



 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.



11. 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.



12. Staten Island University Hospital's Executive Healthcare Internship (EHI) program provides a unique opportunity to serve your community and immerse yourself in the growing field of healthcare. Explore the EHI program where you will develop the skills, knowledge, and experience to become a leader in the healthcare industry.

### Click here to apply today

# Become a Leader in the Healthcare Industry

Careers Well Cared For

### Executive Healthcare Internship Staten Island University Hospital Internship dates: June 6th - August 19th 2022

Staten Island University Hospital's Executive Healthcare Internship (EHI) program provides a unique opportunity to serve your community and immerse yourself in the growing field of healthcare. Explore the EHI program where you will develop the skills, knowledge, and experience to become a leader in the healthcare industry.

This 9-week paid summer internship is open to current college undergraduate Junior and Senior students, and graduate students, with ties to the Staten Island community, who are looking to gain first-hand experience from New York State's largest healthcare provider and private employer.

In the EHI program, you will work directly with a director-level mentor on comprehensive projects related to process improvement in the hospital, attend executive and hospital-wide/departmental meetings, partake in learning sessions, and present a final project.

Get moving today to learn more about our internships at: NorthwellCareers.com

and search for Job Identification #30417







Executive Healthcare Interns will be exposed to a wide range of hospital functions, and be matched to a specific department within the hospital based on interest. Hospital departments may include:

- Human Resources
   Community Health
- Quality
- Facilities Management
  Change Management & Data Analytics



About Staten Island University Hospital:

Staten Island University Hospital Is a 668-bed specialized teaching hospital that occupies two main campuses an numerous communitybased health centers an Jaboratodes Our 17-acc

campus on Seavlew Avenue in Ocean Breeze features the Island's most advanced emergency department, a stateof-the-art education center and our renowned Heart Institute. Our sister campus on Seguine Avenue in Prince's Bay also houses an exceptional emergency department Including a new Pediatric Emergency Center, and boasts specialized care in orthopedics, behavioral health, and robotic gynecologic surgery cases.

Our hospital is named among the Best Regional Hospitals and ranked as High Performing in heart bypass surgery. heart failure and COPD on U.S. News & World Report's 2020;21 list. We've also been recognized for innovative care in cardiology, electrophysiology, robotic surgery, stroke and cancer.

### 13. 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. Beginning Nov. 26th through the 28th you can visit 18 Waverly Place for Big Friday, Small Business Saturday, and Super Savings Sunday. See the flyer below for more information.



2. MSSI'S 4th Annual Winter Warmth Drive - In partnership with MetroPlus Health Jackets, hats, scarves, gloves, and hygiene essentials. December 4th, 2021 12 PM to 3

### PM at 1625 Forest Ave







Winter Jackets New Jackets for men, women and

hygiene essentials for men, women

Items for men,

children and bables women and children

### AND DISASTER RELIEF

Disaster Recovery information and more

For more information contact us @ muslimsistersofsi@gmail.com or 718 6151365 3. Metro Community Health Centers invites all to their Holiday Health Fair. Saturday, December 11th from 11 AM - 3 PM. See the flyer below for more information.



4. 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,

hordly

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