



Dear Constituent,

Making New York more affordable is one of my top priorities, and I will continue to share information aimed at reducing costs and making life easier for working and middle-class households. To that end, below is my latest Resource Roundup, along with information about upcoming events.

Remaining Mobile Office Hours for Fall 2024

My office hosts mobile office hours to bring the services of our district office to all corners of Assembly District 95. This fall, we have also been joined by staff from the Comptroller's Office to assist residents with retrieving unclaimed funds; [click here to read more about this effort](#).

We have one remaining mobile office hours event coming up for this fall, coming up on **Monday, December 2** from 1-4 PM at the Field Library (4 Nelson Avenue, Peekskill, NY 10566). Stop by to get help navigating state agencies, information about state programs and resources, and more.

Happy Thanksgiving!

I send my best wishes for a happy, healthy Thanksgiving holiday with your loved ones. Please note that my offices will close at 3 PM on Wednesday, November 27 and reopen at 9 AM on Monday, December 2 in observance of the holiday.

Sincerely,

Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg

Home Energy Assistance Program

The graphic features a light blue background with white snowflake-like dots. At the top, the text 'HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM' is written in large, bold, white letters with a dark blue outline. Below this, the phrase 'Get up to' is centered. Three monetary amounts are displayed in large, bold, white letters with dark blue outlines: '\$1,000', '\$4,000', and '\$8,000'. Under each amount is a description in dark blue text: 'to help heat your home', 'for a boiler repair', and 'for a boiler replacement'. At the bottom of the graphic is a row of colorful houses in yellow, brown, red, teal, and orange. A dark blue banner at the very bottom contains the text 'Learn more at ny.gov/heat' and the 'WE ARE NY' logo.

Need help with heating bills? The newly expanded Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) helps eligible families pay their energy bills. The HEAP Clean and Tune Benefit can also help eligible homeowners with energy efficiency services, including cleaning of primary heating equipment, chimney cleaning, minor repairs, installation of carbon monoxide detectors or programmable thermostats, if needed, to allow for the safe, proper and efficient operation of the heating equipment. For more information and to apply, visit <https://www.ny.gov/services/apply-heating-and-cooling-assistance-heap>.

Assistance for Parents & Other Caregivers

Child Care Assistance Portal: New York State's Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) has a new online application portal to streamline access to the program. The portal is easy to use, secure, and accessible from your computer or mobile device. Eligible families may receive assistance with paying for some or all the cost of child care. [Click here to learn more about the program, including eligibility requirements, and begin an application.](#)



WDI Child Care Scholarship Program

A crucial support for working families



WDI's Child Care Scholarship Program provides financial support for working families to help cover child care costs.

The average cost of child care for a family with two children is over \$30,000 per year, forcing families to make hard economic decisions.

When families spend less on child care, they can better afford housing and transportation, pay student loans and other bills, and make healthier choices for increased nutrition for everyone in the household.

APPLY TODAY!

Scan here or visit WDINY.ORG/CHILDCARE to complete an eligibility screening to receive an application packet.



AM I ELIGIBLE?

Family Size	85%SMI Minimum*	400%FPL Maximum
2	\$67,490	\$78,880
3	\$83,370	\$99,440
4	\$99,250	\$120,000
5	\$115,130	\$140,560
6	\$131,010	\$161,120

*If your income is below the scholarship's minimum, you may still be eligible for assistance through your local county social services. Check out our website for more information.

SCHOLARSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Avg Monthly Scholarship of \$1000 per child is paid directly to providers for full-time care
- Applicant and Co-applicant must be working (or in an education or training program, i.e., pre-apprenticeship or short-term training program) at least 10 hours per week
- Funding available, for approved applicants, thru March 31, 2024
- Eligibility guidelines apply, complete an eligibility screening to see if you qualify

LIMITED CAPACITY BY REGION
Questions? scholarship@wdiny.org

Workforce Development Institute Child Care Scholarship Program: The Workforce Development Institute's Child Care Scholarship Program provides financial support to working families to help cover the cost of child care. [Click here to find out if you are eligible and start an application.](#)



Early Care &
Learning Council
United to Promote Quality

WHAT ARE CHILD CARE RESOURCE CENTERS?

Child Care Resource Centers coordinate and plan child care services within their communities and regions. They offer essential support to child care providers, parents, businesses, and local governments.

WHERE ARE CHILD CARE RESOURCE CENTERS?

There are 35 Child Care Resource Centers located throughout seven regions of New York State. Regions include: Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Albany, New York City, Hudson Valley, and Long Island.

HOW DO CHILD CARE RESOURCE CENTERS HELP FAMILIES?

Child Care Resource Centers help parents take the guesswork out of choosing care by providing:

- Referrals to local child care providers
- Information on state licensing requirements
- Information on where to get help paying for child care
- Resources and information on services for children with disabilities

HOW DO CHILD CARE RESOURCE CENTERS SUPPORT EARLY EDUCATORS?

Child Care Resource Centers build the supply of quality child care within their state and local communities. Services offered include providing coaching, technical assistance, and business training to child care programs to ensure that their businesses are sustainable. They also equip early childhood educators with professional support, education, resources, and grants to ensure that they are prepared to offer specialized care and education to children.

LEARN MORE ON OUR WEBSITE:

earlycareandlearning.org/our-members/

Child Care Resource Centers: New York State has 35 Child Care Resource Centers that offer support to child care providers, parents, businesses, and local governments. They are tasked with coordinating and planning child care services within their communities and regions. Assembly District 95 is served by the Child Care Council of Westchester (Westchester residents) and the Child Care Council of Dutchess & Putnam (Philipstown residents). [Click here for more information if you need help finding a child care provider or have other child care-related questions.](#)

Stay Informed about CDPAP Changes: Do you have questions about the upcoming changes to the Consumer-Directed Personal Assistance Program (CDPAP)? For more

information about the changes to the program, upcoming webinars, and more, [click here](#).

Want help paying for college?

Start here. Create your FSA ID today to fill out the FAFSA.

Take the first step

- ▶ The 2025-26 FAFSA form will be available on or before Dec. 1, 2024. Create your FSA ID now to be ready on day one.
- ▶ Visit www.studentAid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch to get started.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the first form students and their families need to fill out to access state and federal financial aid and scholarships. It helps millions of students afford college and reduce student loan debt.

Get a little help

SUNY hosts free virtual FAFSA completion workshops in both English and Spanish to help you complete the form. You don't need to be planning to attend a SUNY school to take advantage of this support. Sign up at suny.edu/cost.



2025-2026 FAFSA Opening Soon: The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) unlocks both federal and state aid for New York's college students. Students must complete the FAFSA every year in order to remain eligible for most forms of student aid. The 2025-26 FAFSA will be available on December 1, and students can get

a head start on completing it by creating their Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID now if they do not already have one. [Click here to get started](#). If you or a student in your life need assistance completing the FAFSA, SUNY hosts free virtual completion workshops in English and Spanish for all New York residents. [Click here to learn more and sign up for an upcoming workshop](#).

Business & Career Opportunities



3 FREE NYS MWBE CERTIFICATION ASSISTANCE WORKSHOPS

Attention Westchester-Based Minority and Women-Owned Small Businesses!

If you have been in business for more than 1 year and are interested in getting NYS MWBE Certified, attend our next monthly free NYS MWBE Certification Workshop.

Limited to 25 participants.

By the end of this virtual workshop you will learn:

- How to become MWBE certified with NYS
- The benefits of NYS MWBE Certification
- Learn how to add your business to the Westchester MWBE Program Directory.
- How to market your business on the NYS MWBE Directory
- Resources and opportunities to bid on contracts and subcontracts

Register for one of these 3 dates:

Tuesday, October 22, 2024 from 10am - 12pm
Register: <https://tinyurl.com/MWBE-October>

Tuesday, November 19, 2024 from 10am - 12pm
Register: <https://tinyurl.com/MWBE-November>

Tuesday, December 17, 2024 from 10am - 12pm
Register: <https://tinyurl.com/MWBE-December>



6 FREE NYS MWBE CERTIFICATION APPLICATION TECHNICAL SUPPORT SESSIONS

Attention Westchester-Based Minority and Women-Owned Small Businesses!

If you have been in business for more than 1 year and need technical support as you complete your NYS MWBE Certification Application, attend our next monthly free NYS MWBE Certification Technical Support Sessions. [Learn how to add your business to the Westchester MWBE Program Directory.](#)

Limited to 5 participants per session.

Register for one of these 6 sessions:

Wednesday, October 23, 2024, 10am - 12pm
Register: <https://tinyurl.com/MWBE-Tech-Oct>

Wednesday, October 30, 2024, 10am - 12pm
Register: <https://tinyurl.com/MWBE-Tech-Oct2>

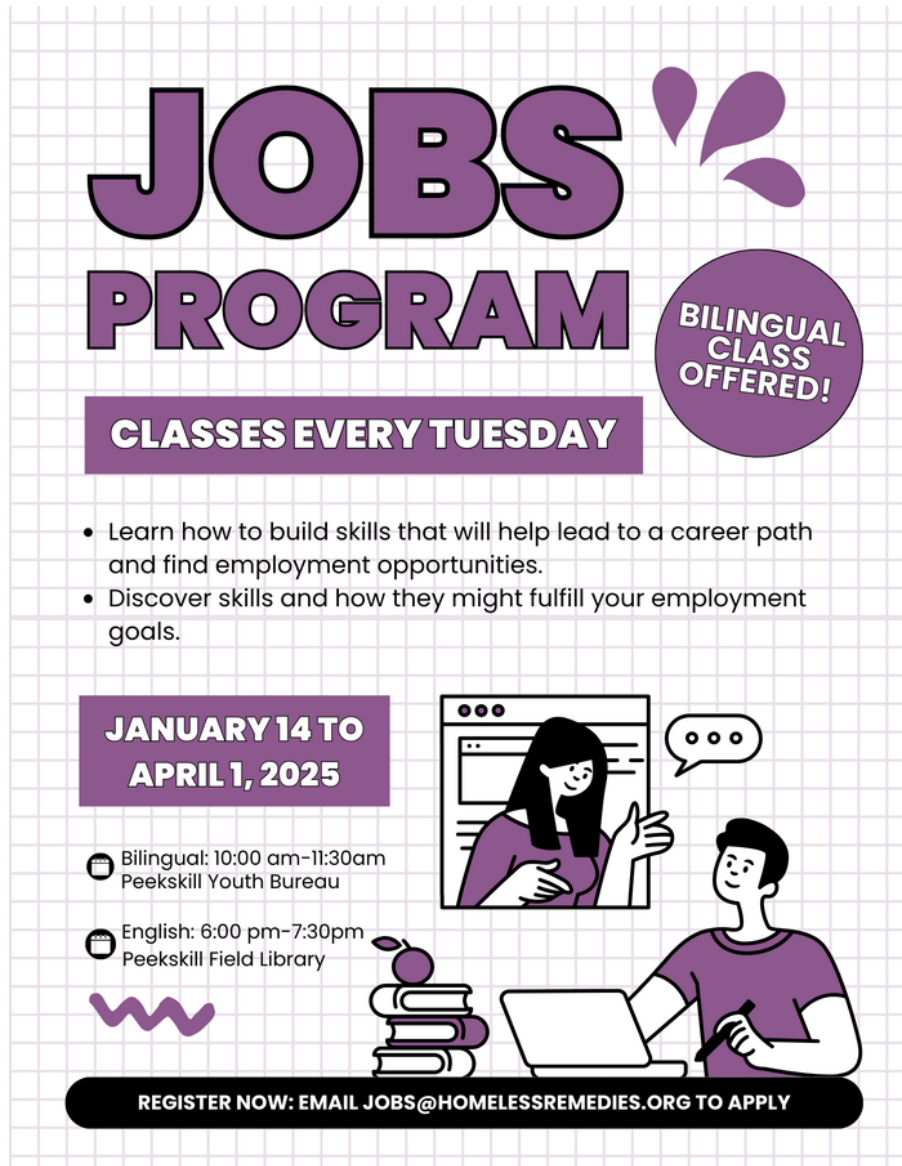
Wednesday, November 13, 2024, 10am - 12pm
Register: <https://tinyurl.com/MWBE-Tech-Nov>

Wednesday, November 20, 2024, 10am - 12pm
Register: <https://tinyurl.com/MWBE-Tech-Nov2>

Wednesday, December 11, 2024, 10am - 12pm
Register: <https://tinyurl.com/MWBE-Tech-Dec>

Wednesday, December 18, 2024, 10am - 12pm
Register: <https://tinyurl.com/MWBE-Tech-Dec2>

MWBE Certification Application & Technical Assistance Workshops: Do you have a business that might qualify for Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) certification? Westchester County Economic Development has teamed up with Aero-Ba-Soul, a Peekskill-based consultancy, this fall to provide assistance with the application process. [Click here to learn more and register for a session.](#)



JOBS PROGRAM

BILINGUAL CLASS OFFERED!

CLASSES EVERY TUESDAY

- Learn how to build skills that will help lead to a career path and find employment opportunities.
- Discover skills and how they might fulfill your employment goals.

JANUARY 14 TO APRIL 1, 2025

📅 Bilingual: 10:00 am–11:30am
Peekskill Youth Bureau

📅 English: 6:00 pm–7:30pm
Peekskill Field Library

REGISTER NOW: EMAIL JOBS@HOMELESSREMEDIES.ORG TO APPLY

JOBS Program in Peekskill: Homeless Remedies, Inc. will be hosting work readiness classes on Tuesdays in Peekskill this winter. This initiative aims to help individuals explore career paths that can lead to meaningful employment. All participants must register, and upon completing the program, they will receive a stipend. For more information and to register, email jobs@homelessremedies.org.

Protect Yourself Against Holiday Shopping Scams

Unfortunately, there are scammers out there trying to turn the season of giving into the season of taking - your money and your personal information. Don't fall for their tricks! Here is more information from New York State's Division of Consumer Protection about avoiding holiday season scams:

- Beware of fake websites: Scammers often create fake websites to imitate legitimate brands. Carefully review the seller and product before buying. Look out for these fake website red flags:
 - Domain name: If the domain name doesn't match the official company name or website, it could be a scam site.
 - Check the contact page and website's privacy policy: The absence of a legitimate (or any) mailing address, working phone number and privacy policy are all red flags for scam sites.
 - One-sided reviews with no specific details: Real reviews often reflect customer experiences that are balanced, descriptive and subjective. Remember that not all fake reviews are positive.
 - Multiple reviews that look very similar and posted during the same timeframe: This is a sign that the reviewers are either copying information or were all written by the same person.
 - Bare user profiles: Be wary of new reviewers that don't have much information on their profiles and only leave one-sided reviews. Research on hotel reviews found that legitimate reviewers were more likely to have profile pictures than fake reviewers.
- Be careful when shopping on social media: Scammers use social media to set-up fake stores to trick customers into paying for products that never arrive. They may create fake accounts and use recognizable brand names and logos to advertise fake clearance sales on social media feeds. Scammers use tactics to make their stores appear authentic and may offer products at unusually low prices. If an offer seems too good to be true, it usually is. Always search for reviews before purchasing. Don't purchase a product directly from the social media site or a link you find on the site. Instead, open a new browser and make your purchase through the retailer's website.
- Watch out for third-party seller scams: Confirm the legitimacy of the seller if shopping in an online marketplace. If redirected from a trusted site to a third-party site, read the seller's policies and reviews, look for any consumer comments and, most importantly, do a broad internet search on the seller before making your purchase. Warranties from trusted sites do not cover third party sellers they host, so you could be unprotected if you get a substandard product or no product at all when you order from an unknown third-party vendor.
- Read product specifications and terms: Make sure you read product descriptions carefully, including the fine print. It's important to understand what you're purchasing and the terms of sale to ensure you are getting what you want.

- Learn how to spot a fake review: Fake reviews are not always obvious, so look at reviews from a variety of different sources to better understand the product, brand or seller. Look out for these red flags:
- Check for return policies: Avoid sellers with vague, missing or exceedingly limited return or refund policies. Before making a purchase, make sure you know who pays shipping costs for returns and any time limits for making returns.

Tips For Making Online Payments Safely:

- Check the website's encryption: Before entering your credit card information, make sure that the website's address (URL) begins with "https" and that there is a closed lock on the website address bar or unbroken key symbol in the lower portion of your window. These indicators show that the site is secured with a digital certificate. This means that any information sent between your browser and the website is sent securely.
- Don't save your payment information on websites: Many websites allow you to save your credit or debit card information for future purchases. Always opt out, and instead enter your card number each time you make a purchase.
- Pick your payment method wisely:
 - Credit cards generally offer some level of fraud protection to help consumers get their money back if you ever need to dispute a charge. If you realize you paid a scammer, immediately report the payment to your bank or credit card company. The earlier you report fraud, the more likely you will be able to access available services and get your money back.
 - Avoid using debit cards for online purchases. Debit cards do not offer the same level of protection against identity theft as credit cards.

For more helpful information, including how to file a complaint if needed, visit the Division of Consumer Protection website at <https://dos.ny.gov/consumer-protection>.

FYI Re: Quaker Bridge Road Closure

Several people have reached out to my office regarding the temporary closing of the Quaker Bridge in Croton. This bridge is maintained by Westchester County. Here is more information from the County regarding the bridge and its closure:

The Quaker Bridge was originally constructed in 1894. While it has been rehabilitated over the years, the last rehabilitation was completed in 2010. The bridge has low height restrictions and severely deteriorated steel members under the bridge deck that are difficult to reach for ongoing repairs. As part of their recent annual bridge inspection, NYS DOT observed more severe deterioration of the steel members under the bridge deck than in previous inspections. These inspections occur every year for this bridge. Because of the condition of the bridge, repair options are not a viable alternative. The County has a responsibility

to ensure a safe crossing for the traveling public. Westchester County DPW and its consultant are proceeding with a complete bridge replacement.

The County has initiated the design for the replacement of the bridge. One component of the design process is developing a timetable for the construction duration. The County is targeting a construction start date in the third quarter of 2025 and is evaluating alternatives to accelerate that process.

The County has installed detour signage in the area of the bridge to re-route the traveling public.

Reminder: Make Yourself Heard

New York Power Authority (NYPA) Renewable Energy Comment Period: NYPA is seeking public comment on the latest draft of its renewable energy strategic plan. [Click here to read the draft plan, learn more about the initiative and access public comment opportunities](#). Written public comment will be accepted through December 9. Comments can be submitted to: StrategicPlanComments@nypa.gov.

Take My Surveys: If you have not already done so, please be sure to complete my open surveys. Many of you have already responded to the Issues survey that was included in my recent print newsletter; it is also available [here](#) and among the buttons on [my home page](#) if you have not yet seen it. I also recently opened a survey inquiring about constituent experiences with the healthcare system; [you can click here to take that survey](#). My office will review, analyze and publish the results in our upcoming winter print newsletter and in my January e-news.

Holiday Gift Drives

If you're in a position to be generous this holiday season, please consider donating to one or more of the many toy and gift drives serving our neighbors in need.



Philipstown Toys for Tots: The Toys for Tots Program sponsored by the Marine Corps League is entering its 31st year in Philipstown. The Anthony Phillips Toys for Tots Memorial Drive will be promoted by the Knights of Columbus, Loretto Council No. 536. New, unwrapped toys may be donated at the following locations through December 17th: B&L Deli, Boscobel, Butterfield Library, Deb's Hair Salon (Nelsonville), Drug World, Foodtown, Office of Downey Energy and the North Highlands Fire Department. On December 20th, toys will be distributed to Philipstown residents from 10AM to 11:30AM at the Cold Spring Fire House. For information, contact Bob Flaherty at 914-318-8076 or Dan Dillon at 845-519-7769.



Westchester County Annual Holiday Gift Drive: The Westchester County Annual Holiday Gift Drive runs through Monday, December 16th, collecting gifts and monetary donations to provide a brighter holiday for more than 1,000 children in Westchester who are in foster care, the homeless system, and receiving other protective and preventive social services. There are six drop box locations throughout Westchester, accessible during business hours, where new, unwrapped toys, appropriate for newborns through 21-year-olds can be donated. (Please, no stuffed animals or violent toys.) In our district, you can drop donations at the Peekskill District Office, 750 Washington St. Donations may be mailed to: Barbara Sabater 112 East Post Road, Room 637, White Plains, New York 10601. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Save the Date: 2025 Town Hall Schedule

ASSEMBLYWOMAN DANA LEVENBERG



AFFORDABILITY TOWN HALLS

Join us to discuss local and state-level efforts to improve affordability in the Hudson Valley and New York State as a whole. Share your thoughts on possible legislation and other initiatives with Assemblywoman Levenberg as the legislative session and budget negotiations get underway.

Thursday, February 6 at 7:00 PM
Virtual. RSVP at <https://bit.ly/AD95VirtualTownHall2025>

Thursday, February 13 at 7:00 PM
Croton Free Library
171 Cleveland Dr., Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520

(914) 941-1111 | levenbergd@nyassembly.gov

   @AMDanaLevenberg

UPCOMING TOWN HALL MEETINGS



Come to a town hall meeting to receive updates from Albany and share your thoughts as the legislative session and State budget negotiations get underway.

Saturday, February 8

10 AM: Briarcliff Manor Community Center
3 Library Road, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510

2 PM: Field Library
4 Nelson Avenue, Peekskill, NY 10566

Saturday, February 15

10 AM: Hendrick Hudson Free Library
185 Kings Ferry Road, Montrose, NY 10548

2 PM: Desmond-Fish Public Library
472 NY-403, Garrison, NY 10524

For more information, please call (914) 941-1111 or email levenbergd@nyassembly.gov.

 Office of Assemblywoman
Dana Levenberg    @AMDanaLevenberg

I will once again be hosting town halls to share updates from Albany and gather your input as the new legislative session and budget negotiations get underway. Please join me! Two will be focused on affordability issues specifically, while the others will be open to all topics. The schedule is as follows:

Affordability

Thursday, February 6 at 7 PM: Virtual town hall on affordability issues. RSVP at <https://bit.ly/AD95VirtualTownHall2025>

Thursday, February 13 at 7 PM: Croton Free Library, 171 Cleveland Dr., Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520

General Interest

Saturday, February 8:

- 10 AM: Briarcliff Manor Community Center, 3 Library Rd., Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510
- 2 PM: Field Library, 4 Nelson Ave., Peekskill, NY 10566

Saturday, February 15:

- 10 AM: Hendrick Hudson Free Library, 185 Kings Ferry Rd., Montrose, NY 10548
- 2 PM: Desmond-Fish Public Library, 472 NY-403, Garrison, NY 10524