



Assemblymember

**Anna Kelles**

Assembly District 125



Dear neighbors,

Happy summer weekend to you all all! I hope everyone was able to enjoy a few moments of peace and joy during this soggy stretch of July. There is something so energizing about sitting and listening to the rain through an open window on a summer evening. I've also found a little time to get out into the woods this week for a few hikes with my family and our dogs. What is your favorite local spot to enjoy nature?



I also wanted to pass along some resources that made it to my inbox this week. If you have any questions about these programs, please give my office a call and my staff will be happy to help.

### **Fresh Connect Program for SNAP Participants, Veterans, and Service Members**



The FreshConnect Checks Program was designed to increase the purchasing power of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) consumers by 40 percent while supporting local farmers, farmers'

markets, farm stands, and mobile markets. The FreshConnect Checks Program has also been available to veterans, service members, and their immediate families since 2014, and can be used to purchase fresh foods at participating farmers' markets and farm stands.

If you are a recipient of SNAP benefits and wish to use those benefits at a farmers' market, click here to [find a participating market](#).

You may also [visit SNAP-to-Market](#) for more information about SNAP benefits at farmers' markets. While at a participating farmers' market, you may be eligible to receive FreshConnect Checks in addition to your SNAP benefit. For every \$5 in SNAP benefits a customer exchanges for wooden tokens, the manager may issue a \$2 FreshConnect Check. This check may be spent at the market on any SNAP eligible food item.

To find out more about the SNAP program, [visit the NYS Office of Temporary Disability Assistance](#), and [check out this list of resources](#).

If you are a veteran, service member, or an immediate family member of a veteran or service member, please call the New York State Division of Veterans' Services at [\(888\) 838-7697](tel:888-838-7697) for more information on how to obtain FreshConnect Checks.

You may be eligible to receive FreshConnect Checks through the Division of Veterans' Services offices on a first come, first served basis, while supplies are available. You can then shop with these FreshConnect Checks at farmers' markets or farm stands in New York State, and redeem them for any [SNAP eligible food items](#). Complete instructions on using FreshConnect Checks are on the front of each check.

## COVID-19 MORTGAGE PAYMENT RELIEF



# Keep Your Home

## COVID-19 MORTGAGE PAYMENT RELIEF

Struggling to keep up with mortgage payments on your FHA-insured mortgage because of COVID-19? Take action now to keep your home. Work with your mortgage servicer to get the help you need. Or, contact a HUD-approved housing counseling agency to understand your options. Find out more at

[FHA.gov/coronavirus/homeowners](https://www.fha.gov/coronavirus/homeowners)

If you're a homeowner with an FHA-insured mortgage and need assistance, visit the [COVID-19 Resources page](#). Mortgage relief is also available for other government-backed mortgages on [CFPB's Coronavirus Resources webpage](#).

- [https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/housing/sfh/owning/covid19resources](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/housing/sfh/owning/covid19resources)



- <https://www.hud.gov/coronavirus/homeowners>
- <https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/SFH/documents/IACOV19FBFactSheetConsumer.pdf>



# FIND SUPPORT

## COVID-19 MORTGAGE PAYMENT RELIEF

Struggling under the weight of COVID-19 financial stress? Need support to address your mortgage challenges? A HUD-approved housing counseling agency can help you understand your options and get you to a better place with your FHA-insured mortgage. Find out more at [HUD.gov/coronavirus/homeowners](https://www.hud.gov/coronavirus/homeowners).

In good health,

Anna Kelles, Ph.D.

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