



Dear neighbors,

This week, I want to begin by passing along the news that the **New York State Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)** application portal will open to the public next week on Tuesday, June 1st. This program was set up to assist low and moderate-income households at risk of homelessness or housing instability by providing rental arrears, temporary rental assistance, and utility arrears assistance.

New York State Emergency Rental Assistance Program

The Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) assists households behind on their rent that have experienced financial hardship due to COVID-19 and are at risk of homelessness or housing instability. Applications open **Tuesday, June 1, 2021**.

DO I QUALIFY?

Eligible Tompkins County residents must meet the following criteria:

Income Limit by Number of Persons in Household				
1	2	3	4	5
\$50,200	\$57,400	\$64,550	\$71,700	\$77,450


- On or after March 13, 2020, a member of the household received unemployment benefits or experienced financial hardship **directly or indirectly** related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The applicant owes past due rent at their current residence.

HOW DOES IT WORK?


This program provides assistance for 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.

HOW CAN I APPLY?

Applications can be submitted online beginning **June 1st** at otday.ny.gov/ERAP. For local assistance with the online application, call **2-1-1** or toll-free **877-211-8667** 8:30am to 5pm, Monday-Friday.



Human Services Coalition
2-1-1 Tompkins/Cortland



Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

For more information, visit otda.ny.gov/ERAP or call 844-NYIRENT (844-691-7368).

We are also expecting the **COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program** to circulate full program details and begin accepting applications on June 10th. In the meantime, you can read about the program and sign up for alerts by visiting the following link:

[COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program](#)

If you have any questions about these programs, please give my office a call and my staff will be happy to help.



In honor of this year's Legislative Disabilities Awareness Day, the Assembly passed a robust legislative package to help more individuals with disabilities live independently, access vital resources and become more active members of their community. I was very **proud to pass my bill (A7121) as part of this package**. It's imperative that we promote inclusive workplaces and ensure that those who face injustices can speak out and receive the benefits they deserve.

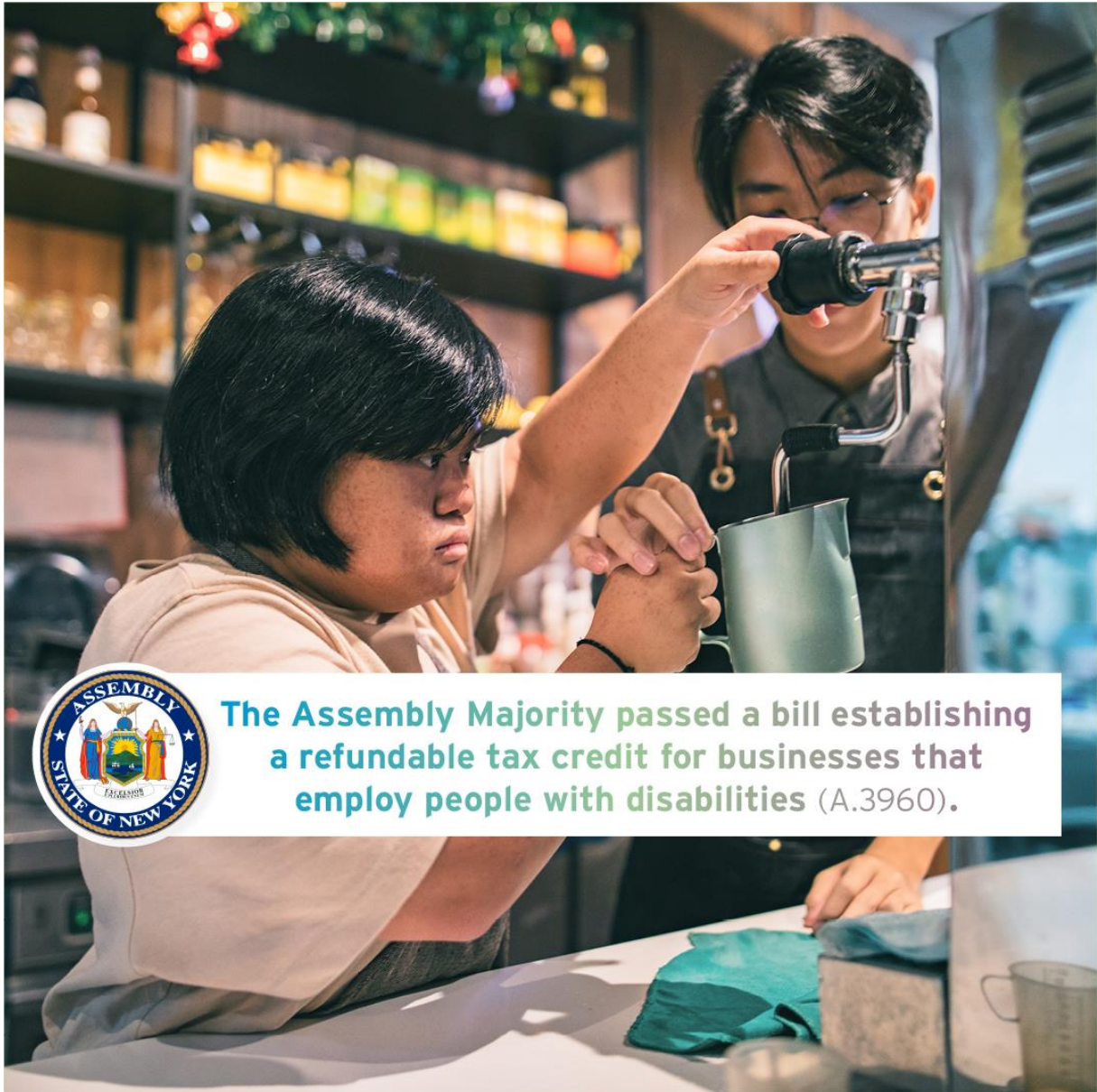
A dark blue graphic with a white checkmark icon in a square on the left. To the right of the icon, the word "PASSED!" is written in large, bold, white capital letters.

Assembly Bill A07121 (Kelles)

This bill waives the State's sovereign immunity with regard to application of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967; the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938; and the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 as they apply to the protection of state employees. It also waives the immunity of all instrumentalities and political subdivisions of the state.

**ANNA
KELLES**
Assemblymember for the 125th 

I was also very proud to vote for a bill (A3960) establishing a small-business tax credit for the employment of people with disabilities. The value of the credit ranges from \$5,000 to a maximum of \$25,000 per employee. This differs from the workers with disabilities tax credit that was passed earlier this year, which instead offers a nonrefundable credit to any qualified employer.



Further, to encourage more accessible housing options and help individuals live as independently as possible, the package includes a bill that creates a tax credit for new or retrofitted residences designed to be universally accessible and adaptable (A.3409). And the package would create a new program – the Office of the Independent Intellectual and Developmental Disability Ombudsman Program – which would help address the complex and diverse needs of individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities (A.1153-A).

Whether it's applying for a job or receiving adequate health care, we must do everything we can to ensure New Yorkers with disabilities receive fair and equal treatment. I'll continue to push for policies that expand and create new opportunities for success and help all New Yorkers flourish.



In closing, I want to wish you all a happy and healthy Memorial Day Weekend as we remember and honor all who have served our country so bravely.

In good health,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Anna R. Kelles'.

Anna Kelles, Ph.D.

Assemblymember, 125th A.D.

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