



Assemblymember

Anna Kelles

Assembly District 125



Dear neighbors,

This week, I am holding so many of you in my heart. Our district has suffered a series of heartbreaking losses over the past few weeks and I am grieving along with you as we help our friends and neighbors who have lost a loved one.

As our community continues to rebuild and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, my staff has been working closely with many of you to secure the resources you need to thrive. We are watching the rollout of the [Emergency Rental Assistance Program \(ERAP\)](#) and I wanted to pass along an update.

We have heard that the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA), which administers the ERAP program, will soon begin sending out payments to the people who have signed up for the program to date. We expect this process to take some time, but are encouraged that folks in need of support will soon begin to receive some relief.

I fought very hard during budget season to ensure that renters and small landlords in my district were protected from financial hardship during the pandemic. My colleagues and I are working to ensure that the \$2.6 billion that New York received in federal funding through the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act to assist households who have been unable to pay residential rent due to the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic is administered quickly and efficiently.

Today, Speaker Carl Heastie, Ways and Means Committee Chair Helene E. Weinstein, Housing Committee Chair Steven Cymbrowitz and Social Services Committee Chair Linda B. Rosenthal today announced the Assembly will hold a hearing on **Tuesday, August 10, 2021** (Time to be announced) to examine the application process and implementation of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP).

The hearing will specifically evaluate how quickly assistance is being distributed to individuals, as well how easily the application has been to access and submit. The

hearing will stream live on the Assembly website: [WATCH HERE](#).

In good health,



Anna Kelles, Ph.D.

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