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Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall May 12, 2022

District 61 News

Thank you to Borough President Vito Fossella and Staten Island Chamber of Commerce for the Small Business Resource Fair. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and we should all do our part in supporting them.



Updates from Albany

Assemblyman Charles D. Fall debates and passes his legislation (A.9513) which will extend the provisions of law that he passed last year that will grant public and private employees four hours of excused leave to receive the coronavirus vaccine and booster until December 31, 2023.

- This legislation will extend current provisions of law granting public and private employees time off to receive the vaccine and booster without having to exhaust their other piles of leave.
- Ensuring current and future public and private employees will not hesitate to receive the COVID-19 vaccination is necessary to take the state of New York one step closer to overcoming the pandemic.
- To see the full video of the floor action, please visit **nyassembly.gov** and search under Charles D. Fall

As we move closer to the 1 million COVID-19 death benchmark, and with approximately 20% of New York's population

not fully vaccinated, I decided to extend a law that I passed last session that allows, both public and private employees the opportunity to get fully vaccinated and boosted.

It is vital that these essential civil servants, which include healthcare workers, emergency medical

service personnel, staff in congregate care facilities, police officers, firefighters, corrections officers, teachers, and private sector employees, receive the vaccine in as expeditious a manner as possible in order to continue serving on the frontlines of this pandemic at decreased risk to themselves and their families.

It is likewise vital that the public and private workforce working at all levels and positions receive the vaccine in order to keep our small businesses, healthcare and nursing home facilities, entertainment venues and our state open and running as effectively as possible as the pandemic continues."



Assemblyman Fall meets with NYC Deputy Mayor for Operations Meera Joshi to discuss automated safety enforcement.

• During the pandemic, NYC has witnessed an alarming increase in traffic injuries and fatalities, caused by factors including increased late-night speeding and reckless driving behavior.

"I want to thank the Deputy Mayor and her team for reaching out me to discuss matters on how to make our streets and neighborhoods safe. I look forward to continuing this dialogue as more information on the topic is shared."



This week Assemblyman Fall met with a delegation from the Staten Island Board of Realtors in Albany.

Topic of discussion:

- Transparency in purchase of cooperative housing
- Concerns with the NYS Climate Initiatives
 - NYS Association of REALTORS supports the need to reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions and the commitment New York has mad to transition away from fossil fuels. However, NYSAR is concerned with the expeditious implementation of various proposals outlined in the Climate Action Council's draft scoping plan.

- The Climate Action Council's draft scoping plan should be finalized before any of its legislative or regulatory proposals are adopted.
- Technical amendments to the State's Telemarketing Restrictions.

"It was again, a great honor to meet with the SIBOR Delegation in Albany to discuss both their legislative and general priorities and how they affect the North Shore of Staten Island."



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

- <u>Governor Kathy Hochul has announced the Environmental Facilities Corporation</u> <u>Board of Directors approved \$41 million in funding that includes low-cost loans and</u> <u>previously awarded grants, enabling the recipients to access these loan and grant</u> <u>funds and move their water and sewer infrastructure projects forward.</u> The Board also approved an \$879 million leveraged bond financing to provide capital for various wastewater and drinking water projects for the New York City Municipal Water Finance Authority (NYCMWFA) and to refund certain prior bonds. Refunding bond sales deliver additional savings for EFC's municipal partners by refinancing the original bonds that funded their projects at an even lower interest rate. The transaction is estimated to save \$18 million for New York City ratepayers over the next 10 years.
- 2. Governor Kathy Hochul today announced that \$17.3 million in state funding was awarded to six projects in four counties that will provide emergency and permanent supportive housing to New Yorkers experiencing homelessness. Supported through the State's Homeless Housing and Assistance Program, these projects include emergency shelter repairs and developments that will create or preserve an additional 120 units serving veterans, survivors of domestic violence, individuals with a history of substance use disorder, and those suffering from serious mental illness.
- 3. Governor Hochul announced that the statewide indoor business mask-or-vaccine requirement have bee lifted as of Thursday, February, 10, and will remain optional for businesses, local governments and counties to enforce. This protocol, a temporary measure implemented on December 10 as statewide cases spiked, was an effective tool to address the winter surge and the rise of the Omicron variant. With case counts plummeting and hospitalizations sharply declining, this temporary measure is no longer needed statewide. Counties, cities, and businesses will be able to opt into the mask-or-vaccine requirement if they so choose. View Governor Hochul's Presentation Here
- 4. <u>Governor Kathy Hochul today announced more than \$64 million in federal funding</u> to help struggling New Yorkers with children, multi-generational households, and survivors of domestic violence with their expenses amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Administered through the state Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance and the state Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, the Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund will provide one-time payments to help with the cost of diapers for struggling families, cover food expenses for households with both children and older adults, and provide crucial housing and relocation assistance for survivors of domestic violence.

Hello, this is Assemblyman Charles Fall

I would like to share an important update on the HEAP cooling assistance program.

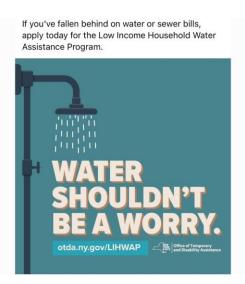
It is fair to say that we've had a mild spring so far, but summer is on its way. Extreme high temperatures can put some of our fellow residents, especially seniors, disabled and children, in danger.

The HEAP cooling assistance program provides an up to \$800 benefit for eligible households. To learn more and review eligibility requirements, visit: www.otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/#cooling-assistance-benefit

Additionally, I am providing the **HEAP Infoline - 718-557-1399**. If you experience any difficulty you can certainly contact my team at **718.442.9932**



1.New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance.



2. The NYS Homeowner Assistance Fund is available now. You may be eligible for up to \$50,000 in financial assistance.



3.Important: The NYS Department of Labor will mail 1099-G tax forms to all Excluded Workers Fund (EWF) recipients to the address listed on their EWF application. The information from this form must be included in tax filings for the 2021 calendar year. As you may know, payments from the EWF are considered taxable income. Although payments were mailed with state taxes already taken out, they may still be subject to federal income tax. For more information click here.



4. 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

5. 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.

6. Free SNAP Public Health					
Ass Asistencia G		istance			
Day & Time Dia y Hora	Location Ubicacion	SNAP Enroller Especialista de SNAP	How to Schedule Como Programar		
Tues, Wed <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 929-270-2181		
Mon, Thurs, Fri Lunes, Jueves, Viernes 9:00am – 4:30pm	Virtual Services (Remote) Servicios Virtuales (Remoto)	Florence Lanipekun	Call <i>Llamar al</i> 929-270-2181		
			rial was funded by		

- 7. 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*.
- 8. 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.
- 9. 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.



10. 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.

Need to talk?



- Information
 Education
 Emotional support
- Links to resources

We can provide virtual presentations on:

- Recognizing common reactions on:
 Recognizing common reactions to COVID
 Building coping skills for the recovery process
 Managing COVID-related stress
 Identifying and meeting children's needs

Contact Us! (718)608-7900 HOPE@ProjectHospitality.org

We are here for YOU.

Free, anonymous & confidential A program of the NYS Office of M Funded by FEMA

Necesitas hablar?

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NY Pr

Te sientes incierto, agobiado, ansioso durante COVID?

quí para hablar | Aquí para escuchar | Aquí para apoyar

Nosotros Proporcionamos... Información Educación 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 estris 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 Heal 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 bills.

DO I QUALIFY?

NY Project Hope

h COV

- Eligible residents must meet the following criteria:
 Eligible residents must meet the following criteria:
 Household gross income at or below 80 percent of area median income, which varies by county
 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 pandemic.
 The applicant owes past due rent at their current residence.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Local of 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 landler of utility provider.



Local Community Organization Information

HOW CAN I APPLY? Applications can be submitted online beginning June 1.

For more information, visit otda.ny.gov/ERAP or call 844-NY1RENT (844-691-7368)

Office of Temporary state and Disability Assistance



New York State Emergency Rental Assistance Program

El Programa de Asistencia para Alquileres de Emergencia ayuda a las familias atrasadas en el pago del alquier que han sufrido dificultades financieras debido a la COVID-19 y están en riesgo de quedarse en la calle o de padecer inestabilidad por la falta de vivienda. Además, el programa puede proporcionar asistencia de alquieir temporal y asistencia para el pago de facturas de servicios públicos vencidas.

¿CALIFICO?

- ¿CALIFICO? Los residentes aptos para solicitar la asistencia deben cumplir con los siguientes criterios: Los ingresos brutos de la familia son iguales o inferiores al 80% del ingreso promedio del área, que varía según el tamaño del condado y de la familia. Un miemter do el la familia rechiós subididos de desempleo o experimenti o una reducción en los ingresos, incurrió en costos significativos o sufrió dificultades financieras, directa o indirectamente debido a la pandemia de COVID-19. El solicitante adeuda alquileres en su residencia actual.

¿CÓMO FUNCIONA?

¿CUMO FUNCIONA? Esta asistencia puede pagar hasta 12 meses de renta vencida y, para algunas familias, pagar hasta 3 meses de alquiteres futuros. El programa también puede pagar hasta 12 meses de facturas de electricidad o gas vencidas. Tenga en cuenta que los pagos siempos e entitrá indectamente al propietario o al proveedor de servicios públicos.

¿CÓMO PUEDO SOLICITARLA? Las solicitudes se pueden enviar en línea a partir del 1 de junio.

Para más información, visite otda.ny.gov/ERAP o llame al 844-NY1RENT (844-691-7368)

Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

(Rev. 05/21)



Información de la organización comunitaria local

Project Hospitality Help Center Services Are All Available By Phone! CALL NOW AND LEAVE A MESSAGE WITH YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER AND WE WILL RELIVEN YOUR CALL REACH US AT 718-420-6466 OR 718-448-8470 EOF HELP WITH SMAP CALL 347-410-3657		Los servicios del Centro de Ayuda estan disponibles por via Telefonica! LLAME AHORA Y DEJE UN MENSAJE CON SU NOMBRE Y NUMERO DE TELEFONO Y LE DEVOLVERENOS LA LAMADA. COMUNIDUESE CON NOSOTOS A LOS NUMEROS DE TELEFONO 718-420-6466 o AL 718-448-3470. P.RAR ADITENTE AVUDA CON SINAP (PROGRAMA DE ASISTENCIA NUTRICIONALI LIAME A. 347-410-3657				
Apply for SNAP	Apply for WIC and Cash Assistance	Apply for Health Insurance or NYC Care	CON SNAP (PROGRAMA D Solicitar para SNAP [programa de asistencia nutricional]	Solicitar WIC y Asistencia en efectivo	Solicitar un Seguro Medico o NYC Care	
Legal Services	Domestic Violence Services	Mental Health Services	Servicios Legales	Servicios de Violencia Domestica	Servicios de Salud Mental	
Apply for Unemployment	Food Pantry	Immigration Help	Solicitud de desempleo	Despensa de alimentos	Ayuda en casos de Inmigracion	
221 HEBERTON AVENUE, STATEN ISLAND, NY 10302 514 bav St. Staten Island, ny 10304				221 HEBERTON AVENUE, STATEN ISLAND NV 10302 514 bav street staten Island NV 10304.		

11. The BJ House Community - Mobile Pantry will come right to your door. Every first Wednesday.



12. This robust 6-week community training program informs New Yorkers about NYPD policies, activities, and authorities.



13. The Y is now offering new rounds of FREE lifeguard training and certification this spring, including at the Broadway Y. Pre-tests are required for this opportunity and are currently underway, with lots of times and dates at Ys across the city. Experienced swimmers should see <u>here</u> for details and scheduling.



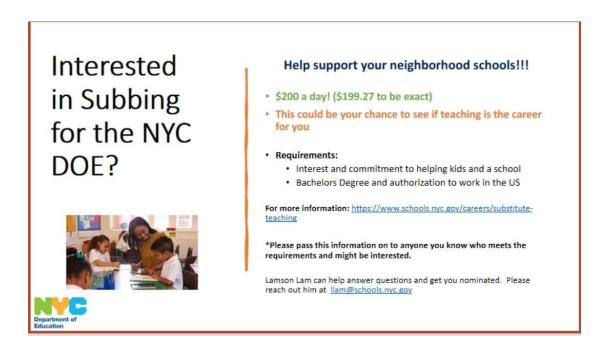
14. Small Business Resources:

- 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>.

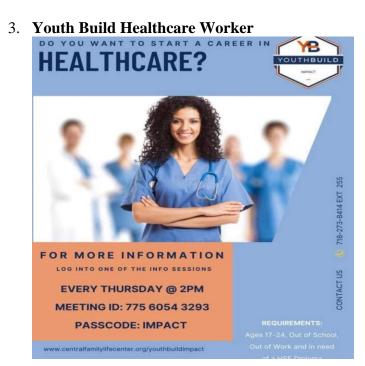
Useful Events and Opportunities

1. Help support your neighborhood schools - For more information click here

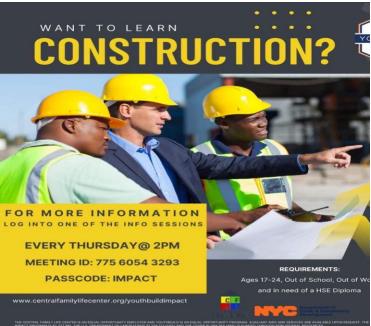


2. Put your swimming skill to the ultimate test. Become an NYC Lifeguard – help keep New York's beaches and pools safe and develop skills that will last a lifetime.





4. Youth Build Construction Worker.



5. Central Family life center upcoming events.



6. The JCC of Staten Island providing a no cost training programs for Staten Island and NYC residents.



7. The Forest Ave. Community 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.



HOW CAN MY BUSINESS HELP?

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.

8. UAU Mommy & Me Paint & Sippy Cup



9. Catholic Charities Resource Fair



Sincerely,

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Charles D. Fall Member of Assembly

ALBANY OFFICE: Room 729, 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