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May 27, 2021

STATE BUDGET COVID RECOVERY PROGRAM BEGINS ROLLOUT TO HELP BUSINESSES, RENTERS, ARTS ORGANIZATIONS AND NOT-FOR-PROFITS

Dear Friends,

The recently passed state budget included special funding to help businesses and individuals recover from the last year of Covid-19. In January I was appointed to an Assembly panel on Transitioning the NY economy to recovery from Covid-19. In the state budget process, I advocated for significant new grant programs to assist businesses impacted by the pandemic. Grants account for \$800 million in relief. The budget also includes funding to assist renters, landlords, arts organizations and not-for-profits, including special funding for restaurants.

Governor Cuomo and state agencies are beginning to provide information about eligibility and how one can apply for some of these programs. This newsletter focuses on the information announced this week. I will continue to provide updates as more application information becomes available.

My goal is to do everything I can to help Westchester businesses and individuals access assistance that is available. My staff and I are always available to help as questions arise. Please contact me at 914-939-7028 or at otiss@nyassembly.gov for assistance.

Warm regards,

Steve



Small Business and Renter Assistance Programs Details Announced

Following approval of the state budget, Governor Cuomo has announced program details regarding the availability of \$3.5 billion in assistance for renters and small businesses experiencing financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

RENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR TENANTS AND LANDLORDS

The emergency rental assistance programs makes up to \$2.7 billion in emergency rental assistance available for struggling New Yorkers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. These programs are available for renters and their landlords. Applications will be accepted starting June 1 for eligible New Yorkers who are behind on their rent and have suffered financial hardship due to COVID-19. For more information, renters and landlords should visit otda.ny.gov/erap for information on the emergency rent program.

BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

There are a number of business recovery programs with the small business recovery grant program making up to \$800 million in funding available for small businesses to help them recover from the economic impact of the pandemic. Applications for the program will be accepted starting June 10 for small and micro businesses and small for-profit independent arts and cultural organizations to help them recover from the economic impact of the pandemic.

For details on the programs announced to date please follow the links to the sites for each.

Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program: \$800 million in funding for small businesses - including for-profit arts and cultural institutions that were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Restaurant Resiliency Program: \$25 million in grant funding to support restaurants that provide meals to distressed and under-represented communities.

Restaurant Return to Work Tax Credit: For small, independently owned restaurants located within an area designated by the NYS Department of Health as either an Orange or a Red zone for at least 30 consecutive days.

NY Forward Loan Fund: The New York Forward Loan Fund (NYFLF) is an economic recovery loan program aimed at supporting New York State small businesses, nonprofits and small residential landlords.

Restaurant Revitalization Fund. HOW TO APPLY: Online application portal: restaurants.sba.gov. By phone: 844-279-8898. Applications are open to: Restaurants, food stands, food trucks, food carts, caterers, bars, saloons, lounges, taverns and more!

Online Portal: restaurants.sba.gov

Info at: saverestaurants.com

Excelsior College Scholarship Application Opens

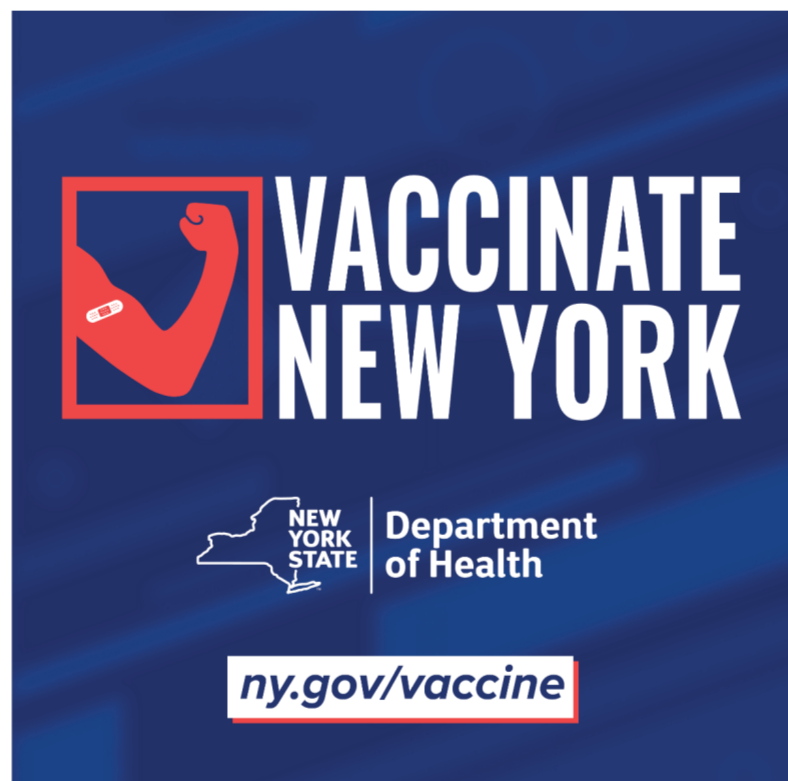
Governor Cuomo announced that the application for the Excelsior Scholarship for new applicants for the 2021-22 academic school year is now open.

The Excelsior Scholarship, in combination with other aid programs, allows eligible full-time students to attend a SUNY or CUNY two-year or four-year college tuition-free.

To be eligible for an Excelsior Scholarship for the 2021-22 academic year, household federal adjusted gross income can total up to \$125,000. Student must also meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Plan to attend a SUNY or CUNY two or four-year college
Complete 30 credits per year towards their program of study (including Summer and Winter terms)
Be on track to graduate on time with an Associate's Degree in two years or a Bachelor's Degree in four years
Recipients must also plan to live in New York State for the length of time they received the award.

The application is available here.



All persons over the age of 12 are now eligible to receive the Pfizer vaccine with many locations offering walk-in visits. To make an appointment visit your local pharmacy website or the state's website here:

NY State Covid-19 Vaccine Appointments Am I Eligible

or by calling NYS Vaccination Hotline: 1-833-NYS-4-VAX (1-833-697-4829).

Vax & Scratch. First Prize: \$5 million. Second: \$50,000. Third: \$20,000. Fourth: \$5,000. Fifth: \$2,000. Sixth: \$500. Seventh: \$400. Eighth: \$200. Ninth: \$100. Tenth: \$50. Eleventh: \$40. Twelfth: \$30. Thirteenth: \$20.

Governor Cuomo announced a new "Vax and Scratch" program that gives New Yorkers a chance to win up to \$5 million for getting vaccinated. Beginning Monday, May 24th and until Friday, May 28 if you get vaccinated at one of 10 New York State COVID-19 vaccine sites you will receive a \$5 million Mega Multiplier scratch-off lottery ticket.

In our area, the following sites will offer the program:

- New York National Guard Armory - Yonkers
Bronx - Bay Eden Senior Center
York College - Health and Physical Education Complex - Queens
Medgar Evers College - Brooklyn
Javits Center

Governor Cuomo also announced the 'Get a Shot to Make Your Future' vaccine incentive giving 12- to 17-year-olds who get vaccinated a chance to win full SUNY or CUNY Scholarship. 10 Winners Per Week for Five Weeks; Full Scholarship Including Tuition, Room and Board.

Sign Up to Be Notified When Drawing Begins Here

2021 Playland Beach Opening Weekend

Beach open weekends only, starting May 29 through June 20. Daily starting June 25 also open Monday, May 31 and Monday, September 6.

- Open - 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m., no admittance after 6 p.m.
Social Distancing - Visitors must wear a mask if they cannot social distance within six feet. Small families in specific sand areas do not have to wear mask when sitting. Mask not required in the water.



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