

### SNAP Emergency Allotment Available for June

A June supplement, via the SNAP Emergency Allotment (EA), will be available to SNAP households who did not receive the maximum benefit amount for their household size, see [April/May E-Newsletter](#) for details on the program.

Benefits will be automatically be encoded on the households EBT card on a staggered basis. Each district's caseload will be divided to receive benefits over a two-week period. Households in NYC will begin to receive benefits beginning June 15h and ending on June 26th.

For more information go to <https://otda.ny.gov/policy/gis/2020/20DC062.pdf>

### NYC Rent Guidelines Board

On June 17th, the NYC Rent Guidelines Board voted to freeze rents for rent-stabilized apartments and lofts for one-year lease renewals and the for the first year of a two-year renewal (with a 1% hike in the second year).

Rents were also frozen for single-room occupancy (SRO) hotels. The freeze will go into effect October 1, 2020. For a summary go to <https://rentguidelinesboard.cityofnewyork.us/2020-summary-of-guidelines/>.

### Pandemic Unemployment Compensation Set to Expire on July 31<sup>st</sup>

The CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) which was signed into law on March 27, 2020 included an expansion of unemployment benefits, among other benefits, visit Benefits Plus, [Expansion of Unemployment Insurance](#) for details.

The Pandemic Unemployment Compensation component, which is the extra \$600 per week in benefits, will be expiring July 31, 2020 unless Congress passes a law to extend it.

### IRS Alert: Economic Impact Payments Belong to Recipient, Not Nursing Homes or Care Facilities

The Internal Revenue Service announced they have alerted nursing homes and other care facilities that Economic Impact Payments (EIPs) belong to the recipient, not the organizations providing the care. The IRS issued this reminder following concerns that people and businesses may be taking advantage of vulnerable populations who received the Economic Impact Payments.

The payments are intended for the recipients, even if a nursing home or other facility or provider receives the person's payment, either directly or indirectly by direct deposit or check. For more information go to <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/irs-alert-economic-impact-payments-belong-to-recipient-not-nursing-homes-or-care-facilities>.

### Economic Impact Payments

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is reminding many low-income Americans who do not usually file tax returns to register using the [Non-Filers tool](#) for the Economic Impact Payment (Stimulus payment) **by October 15th** to receive a payment by the end of the year. The Non-Filers tool will remain available through the summer and fall.

#### Don't Forget!

- **Taxes:** The deadline to file and pay 2019 federal income taxes is July 15, 2020. To file, go to <https://www.irs.gov/filing>.
  - Need more time beyond July 15? Additional time can be requested at <https://www.irs.gov/forms-pubs/extension-of-time-to-file-your-tax-return>.
- **Census:** New Yorkers have until August 14, 2020 to complete the Census questionnaire. If not completed, go to <https://2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond.html>

To check the status of the payment go to [Get My Payment](#)

The IRS will conduct an extensive outreach and education effort to partner groups who serve homeless individuals, underserved communities, limited English households and others. As part of this effort, the agency has created an [Economic Impact Payment partner page](#), and materials are available in multiple languages.

For more information on the Economic Impact Payment, including answers to frequently-asked questions and other resources, visit <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus-tax-relief-and-economic-impact-payments>.

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### **U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)**

Certain USCIS field offices and asylum offices will resume non-emergency face-to-face services to the public. Application support centers will resume services later.

As services begin to reopen, offices will reduce the number of appointments and interviews to ensure social distancing, allow time for cleaning and reduce waiting room occupancy. Appointment notices will contain information on safety precautions that visitors to USCIS facilities must follow. For the latest information on the status of individual offices, go to <https://www.uscis.gov/about-us/uscis-office-closings>.

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### **The U.S. Supreme Court's Ruling on DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals)**

On June 18<sup>th</sup> the U.S. Supreme Court rejected the Trump administration's attempt to end the DACA program, which protects undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children. The 5-to-4 decision, written by Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., indicated that the administration had not provided proper legal justification for ending the DACA program implemented by President Barack Obama eight years ago, which allows qualified enrollees to work, study and remain in the United States on a renewable permit.

"The dispute before the court is not whether DHS may rescind DACA. All parties agree that it may. The dispute is instead primarily about the procedure the agency followed in doing so," he wrote in an opinion joined by Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen G. Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan.

Immigration advocates at the Supreme Court were supported by a coalition of the country's biggest companies and universities. The decision was praised both by unions and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

To view the decision visit: [https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/19pdf/18-587\\_5ifl.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/19pdf/18-587_5ifl.pdf).

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### **HEAP Cooling Assistance Open**

The HEAP Cooling Assistance component is open and will run until the allocated funding is exhausted. The HEAP Cooling Assistance program assists with the purchase and installation of air conditioners (not to exceed \$800 with installation.)

In situations where an air conditioner cannot be safely installed, a fan will be provided. Household members must be U.S. citizens or qualified aliens, and have at least one member in the household with a documented medical condition that is exacerbated by heat, as well as:

- Have income at or below current HEAP income guidelines (or is in receipt of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Cash Assistance or SSI living alone benefits), and
- Received a regular HEAP benefit greater than \$21 in the most recent heating season, and
- The household does not have a working air conditioner, or their current air conditioner is five years old or older, and
- The household did not receive a HEAP funded air conditioner within the past 10 years.

An application for HEAP can be found [here](#). Completed applications can be sent via email to [SerranoL@hrs.nyc.gov](mailto:SerranoL@hrs.nyc.gov) or mailed to the address below:

Home Energy Assistance Program/HEAP  
P.O. Box 1401  
Church Street Station  
New York, NY 10008

For more information call (212) 835-7216 or go to <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/program.asp#cooling>.

**Benefits Plus Online Subscribers** can find additional information on the HEAP cooling assistance program under *Cash Benefits, Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), HEAP Cooling Assistance*.

### AC Installation for NYCHA Seniors

NYC, NYCHA and Con Edison have committed a total of \$16.5 Million towards purchasing and installing AC units for NYCHA seniors. The City is targeting low-income seniors who pre-qualify based on their enrollment in City benefits programs.

Eligibility Requirements:

- The AC units will be made available to all seniors (60 years or older), OR
- Persons with mobility impairments, OR
- On life sustaining equipment who do not already have an AC units.

Qualified households will be receiving robocalls with details on how to sign up. For more information go to <https://portal.311.nyc.gov/article/?kanumber=KA-03305>.

## Benefits Plus Online

### Free COVID-19 Resources on Benefits Plus

Benefits Plus Online created the *COVID-19 Resources* category available at no cost to all social service professionals and clients seeking relevant and up-to-date information on COVID-19. This is the [Community Service Society of New York](#)'s effort to support these professionals who are working with vulnerable population groups during this emergency.

### Updates

- [Cash Assistance: Changes under COVID-19](#)
  - Updated time frame for conducting eligibility interviews via phone, as well as telephone screenings for drug and alcohol and extending domestic violence waivers to July 6, 2020.
- [Housing Programs & Services](#)
  - Eviction Moratorium: Included NYC Department of Investigation's memo to City Marshals indicating evictions are suspended until NYC Housing Court allows evictions to move forward.
  - NYC Housing Court: Updated information on courts reopening, starting cases, answering petitions, and appearing in court.

- Rent: Updated information on rent freezes to rent regulated housing as a result of NYC Rent Guidelines Board June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 vote.
- New sections on Housing Discrimination and Mitchell-Lama.

Not a Benefits Plus Subscriber? Request a [free demo here](#).

## Community Resources/Events

### LGBTQ Coronavirus Resources — NYC Unity Project

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the NYC Unity Project surveyed hundreds of LGBTQ program and service providers across New York City to develop this resource page, which includes up-to-date information on LGBTQ resources still available during the COVID-19 pandemic. Go to

<https://growingupnyc.cityofnewyork.us/generationnyc/lgbtq-coronavirus-resources/>

### CityMD COVID Testing

CityMD is offering two forms of COVID-19 testing at all locations, one to detect if you are actively infected with the COVID-19 virus and the other to detect if you have had prior exposure to COVID-19 and have built an antibody for the virus.

All City MD sites to have tests 7 days a week 123 sites across all 5 boroughs

- Walk-ins welcome
- No cost for the uninsured
- Find locations at <https://www.citymd.com/>