



Assemblyman
Charles D. Fall
Assembly District 61

Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall

May 2, 2020

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. The COVID-19 outbreak has proven incredibly stressful for many people. Everyone from frontline workers to health professionals, parents, young students, the elderly, and our neighbors filing for unemployment, may experience and cope with the stress of this outbreak differently based on its physical and mental impact on their lives these past few months. Regardless of how directly or indirectly you have been affected by COVID-19, do not ignore your mental health. Taking care of yourself, your friends, and your family can help you cope with stress and build stronger communities.

The CDC has outlined several helpful tools, tips, and coping methods for people of various ages and occupations that you can find here.



Updates From Albany

What Measures did the State Legislature Include in the 2020-21 State Budget to Provide Financial Protections for Underserved Populations?

This year's budget includes:

- An investment of \$25 million in new funding over five years to support New York's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI).
 - CDFIs are often the sole providers of banking services in low-income areas and underserved communities.
 - CDFIs will leverage the State funding to a combined \$30 million in targeted investment to these communities.
- The creation of a statewide Office of Financial Inclusion and Empowerment to meet the financial services needs and protections for underserved populations throughout New York State.

This crucial funding is part of the legislature's sweeping financial access and inclusion agenda that builds on the work this administration has done to expand access to safe and affordable banking services, credit, and financial education to all people. Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its unprecedented impact on our economy, I want to assure you that my state and local colleagues and I continue to work with the NYS Congressional Delegation to implement additional and much needed federal relief funding. We must work proactively as we begin to see a possible reconstruction and recovery plan on the horizon.

District 61 News

Delivering Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to North Shore Community Members and Organizations in Need

Last week we were able to secure essential PPE for our health care workers at Richmond University Medical Center and this week we were happy to provide these much-needed resources to frontline workers outside of our hospitals. It was my honor to deliver crucial bags of PPE to aid in the efforts of several faith leaders, food pantries, drug counseling centers, and community leaders across the North Shore, who are working daily to respond to community needs and spread positivity. Thank you to all the community members working selflessly to keep our community running.

Please contact my office if your organization or business is still in need of gloves, masks, and hand sanitizer; supplies are limited.



Muslim Sisters of Staten Island Host A Virtual Community Iftar

With many houses of worship closed due to COVID-19, traditional Ramadan practices are significantly different this year. During Ramadan, Iftar is the meal served and eaten after sunset. Typically, these meals are enjoyed in group gatherings among family and friends. Thank you to the Muslim Sisters of Staten Island for helping to foster this spirit of community during their annual community Iftar, which took place virtually. Despite social distancing, the feeling of community was stronger than ever. Ramadan Mubarak to everyone celebrating.

A reminder that the Department of Education provides vegetarian, halal, and kosher options at many grab-and-go meal school sites for those in need of food. [Click here to find a free meal location near you](#) or text “NYCFOOD” or “COMIDA” to 877-877. These sites operate Monday-Friday, from 7:30 am to 11:30 am for children and families, and from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm for individual adults.



2020 Census, Your Count Matters

Yes, we are discussing the 2020 census again, because your count matters! Staten Island is far from reaching our 100% count goal. Our current response rate still falls behind our response rate during this same time in 2010, especially here on the North Shore. We all have a part to play in achieving a 100% count on the North Shore because this money is used to help develop schools, fire departments, and hospitals in our community. Every person counted in the census helps to secure additional federal funds towards improving roads and other public services that we rely on. We all must do our part to receive the improvements our communities deserve. Let's get our count up and help our community thrive, your count matters. Visit [My2020Census.com](https://my2020census.com) to fill out your census! Thank you to the SI Counts team for coordinating a wonderful virtual census party and continuing to share crucial updates about the census.



Positive Community Contributions

This week in positive community contributions, I want to highlight Imam Dr. Tahir Kukaj. As a long-standing Staten Islander and member of the Albanian Islamic Cultural Center, Imam Tahir is a community service veteran among the interfaith community. Over the last few weeks of this pandemic, Imam Tahir has worked collaboratively with our Staten Island TLC workers and nonprofits like Project Hospitality to provide food, water, and hope to so many first responders and food pantries on Staten Island. Furthermore, as the Muslim Chaplin for the NYPD, Imam Tahir continues to spread messages of faith, peace of mind, and blessings to everyone and to those observing the holy month of Ramadan. Thank you to Imam Dr. Tahir Kukaj for his continued service during these trying times.



I also want to acknowledge the NYC Parks Enforcement Patrol and parks staff who continue to maintain our Staten Island parks and recreational spaces and prioritize public safety. As a former employee of the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, I know firsthand their commitment to the community. Thank you to the Staten Island Parks team for ensuring our community remains active during this time and for keeping our public spaces safe. Once a park lover, always a park lover.



Look below for information about the free face coverings that will be distributed in NYC parks.

If you or someone you know is doing positive work on the North Shore to uplift spirits or provide an essential resource in our community, please send an email to Agosas@nyassembly.gov with details and photos of their efforts to have them highlighted in a future newsletter.

Critical Updates, New Policies, and Recommendations to Protect You and Your Community From Contracting and Spreading COVID-19

1. NYC Parks will be distributing **100,000 free face coverings** over two days to any resident in need of one. **Here are the North Shore pick up locations for the face-covering distribution:**
 - Monday, May 4, 2pm-4pm at Corporal Thompson Park, Field House of Broadway between Markham Lane and Wayne Street
 - Monday, May 4, 10am-12pm at the Big Park Grandview Ave and Continental Place
 - Tuesday, May 5, 2pm-4pm at Clove Lakes Outside Stonehenge

2. New York City's subways, including the **Staten Island Railway, will now close nightly to be cleaned and disinfected. From 1am to 5am trains will be serviced**, and essential workers will be provided with alternate options of transportation including bus services.

3. **As of yesterday, May 1, the lower level boarding on the Staten Island Ferry will be temporarily closed at both terminals.** However, riders using wheelchairs or bicycles will still be able to board on the lower level near the security booth. Furthermore, the St. George ferry terminal restrooms will be closed daily from 5pm to 4:30am. The Staten Island Ferry is operating on a reduced schedule until further notice, **[click here to view the modified ferry schedule.](#)**

4. The **City's Open Streets initiative** is designed to provide more active space for New Yorkers without compromising social distancing. Beginning Monday, May 4, these two Staten Island streets, Silver Lake Park Drive, and Front Street from Canal Street to Edgewater Street will be **open exclusively to pedestrians and cyclists every day from 8 am to 8 pm.**

5. Governor Cuomo announced that New York's **contact tracing pilot program** will begin in the coming weeks. Contact tracing will help prevent the spread of COVID-19 by using trained contact tracers to interview COVID positive patients and identify people they may have been in contact with over the past 14 days. The contact tracer will notify and interview each contact to alert them to their risk of infection and instruct those contacts to quarantine or isolate for 14 days to ensure they don't spread COVID-19 to others. Lastly, the contact tracers will also monitor those contacts by text throughout the duration of their quarantine or isolation to see if the contacts are showing any symptoms.

6. If you have mild to moderate symptoms of COVID-19, you should immediately isolate yourself at home. After three to four days, if you still feel sick, contact your health care provider. **Ways to get tested:**
 - i. To make an appointment at the **South Beach** drive-thru facility located at 777 Seaview Ave., call the **NYS Health Hotline at 888-364-3065**. Only those with an appointment can be tested at this site. Results are provided via phone, fax, or the **online patient portal.**
 - ii. To make an appointment at **NYC Health + Hospitals/Gotham Health Vanderbilt, located at 165 Vanderbilt Ave., call 844-692-4692.**
 - iii. **Beacon Christian Community Health Center** is also offering offer services to patients and evaluating people who may have been exposed to COVID-19. **Call 718-815-6560 to speak with a professional.**
 - iv. **CityMD** is providing COVID-19 testing; antibody blood tests; and exams to help patients who once had COVID, demonstrate they are currently negative and are able to return to work. **Call 718-571-9196 to make an appointment** at their West Brighton location, 812 Forest Ave.
 - v. **If you have any of the following symptoms, go to an emergency room or call 911:**

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion or inability to stay awake
- Blue lips or face

Crucial Resources to Support and Aid Your Everyday Needs During the COVID-19 Outbreak

1. **The NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs is working to provide New Yorkers with emergency expense aid.** Individuals may apply for emergency financial help to prevent eviction, pay their energy or utility bills, or buy health-related items. They can apply to the NYC Human Resources Administration for a one-time emergency grant, also called the "One Shot Deal." **Call (718) 557-1399 for more information.** Eligibility includes all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status. Emergency assistance is provided for, but not limited to, the following situations:

- Homelessness
- Dispossess/Eviction
- Utility disconnected or pending termination
- Fire disaster
- Domestic violence
- Circumstances that affect the health and safety of the individual or family

2. **Small Business Resources**

- i. The Small Business Association has resumed accepting **Paycheck Protection Program applications** from participating lenders.
 - All impacted small businesses are urged to consider applying as soon as possible **as funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and demand is extremely high. Click here to start your application.**
 - Email **sbasupport@edc.nyc** if you need a referral to a banking partner or other assistance in the application process. You can also call 311 for help with the application.

Facebook Small Business Grants Program. **Click here to apply, the application closes on May 6.**

- iii. COVID-19 Business for All Grants. **Click here to apply!**


3. **Free Legal Help:** Available on things like notary services, labor laws, SBA loans and grants, estate planning, leases, immigration, and more. Providers below:

- **City Bar Justice Center. Learn more here.**
- **Lawyers Alliance.** For non-profit organizations only. Virtual consultations on SBA loans. **Click here to register.**
- **The New York State Bar Association** helps jobless New Yorkers secure unemployment benefits if their claim has been denied. **Click here to find out more information and request support.**

4. The **NYC Problem Gambling Resource Center** continues to offer free and confidential treatment and services for individuals and families impacted by problem gambling. If you know somebody who is personally impacted by problem gambling and looking for help in Staten Island, **[click here for more information](#)**, call (929) 955-3062, or e-mail **newyorkcitypgrc@nyproblemgambling.org**.

5. The **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act** creates a new temporary federal program called **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)**. PUA offers temporary unemployment assistance to those who are unemployed, partially employed, or unable to work because of COVID-19 and are not currently eligible for regular unemployment benefits.
 - For more information, please refer to the NYS Department of Labor's **[PUA Fact Sheet here](#)**.
 - **[Click here to apply for PUA or Regular Unemployment Benefits and follow the instructions](#)**.

6. **Job Opportunities: NYCHA is hiring temporary per diem workers to assist with building maintenance. To apply and get more info about the role, contact your local NYCHA Property Management Office.** While residents are encouraged to apply, the positions are open to non-residents as well and that NYCHA still has unfilled positions for this opportunity.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
2020 SPRING SEASON


Update as of 04.01.2020

NYCHA is hiring **TEMPORARY PER DIEM WORKERS** to assist with general maintenance at NYCHA properties throughout the city. **[Please call your local NYCHA Property Management Office for more information and to schedule an appointment](#)** to complete the required forms.

Required documents:


Two forms of identification (originals only) to verify your identity and eligibility to work in the United States. Examples of acceptable documents include, but are not limited to:

- Driver license
- U.S. Passport
- Social Security card
- U.S. Citizen ID Card (Form I-197)
- Employment authorization document issued by the Department of Homeland Security
- Original or certified copy of birth certificate



You must be:

- At least 18 years of age
- Able to perform heavy physical labor



Duration of employment:

- Candidates would be eligible to obtain up to 40 hours of work per week
- You will be called as needed during the spring season

Wage: \$19.33 per hour

Update as of 04.01.2020

7. **[Click here to find an FAQ page on guidance for funerals and burials in NYC.](#)** This website goes over services, religious traditions, and how to apply for a death certificate during COVID-19.
 - **[The NYC Human Resources Administration is offering burial assistance](#)** for individuals in need of aid to meet funeral expenses. New York City residents may be eligible to receive up to \$900 in financial assistance to help pay for funeral expenses.

8. **NYS Domestic Violence Hotline: It is 1-800-942-6906**

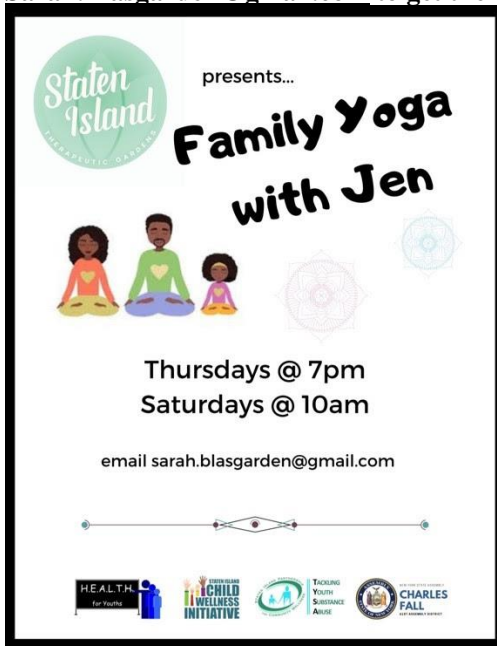
- During this time of isolation at home it is important for people to know that if they're faced with a domestic violence situation, **they do not have to stay in those dangerous situations.** The state will help those in need to relocate and help find safe shelter.
- If there is an issue where someone is in immediate danger, call 911 immediately. Otherwise, call the hotline for help at **1-800-942-6906.**

9. **Free Groceries:** The Department of Probation, Neighborhood Opportunity Network (NeON) Nutrition Kitchens, in partnership with the Food Bank of NYC and the NYC Young Men's Initiative (YMI) have opened a Nutrition Kitchen (food pantry) to **distribute free food, available to any New Yorker who needs it.**

- The Staten Island Kitchen located at **340 Bay Street operates Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9am-noon. Call 718-876-8660 for more information.**

Useful Virtual Events

1. My office is collaborating with Staten Island Therapeutic Garden, H.E.A.L.T.H for Youths, Staten Island Child Wellness Initiative and TYSA to offer **free virtual family Yoga courses every Thursday at 7pm and Saturday at 10am.** Yoga is a practice that aids with improving physical and mental health, healing body aches and pains, and helps to improve focus. **Email Sarah.Blasgarden@gmail.com to get the link to join!**



2. The Comptroller's Office has just launched **M/WBE University Webinars: Resources for Small Businesses and M/WBEs Impacted by COVID-19** every Tuesday and Thursday from 11 am to

12pm until Thursday, May 14. These presentations on Zoom will cover a range of topics including financial resources from the federal, state, and City government as well as the private sector, and current business opportunities within City and State procurement.

- Interpretation services will be available in 12 different languages
- **[Click here for more information](#) and to RSVP or email any questions to diversity@comptroller.nyc.gov.**

NEW YORK CITY COMPTROLLER SCOTT M. STRINGER

COMPTROLLER'S
M/WBE UNIVERSITY
MINORITY AND WOMEN OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

Comptroller's M/WBE University is a series of workshops designed to increase access to the Comptroller's Office and citywide opportunities for M/WBEs.

WEBINARS: RESOURCES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES AND M/WBES IMPACTED BY COVID-19
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Via Zoom

The Comptroller's Office will be providing presentations via Zoom on resources from the federal, state, and City government and the private sector available to small businesses and M/WBEs impacted by COVID-19.

Webinar Sessions:

Tuesday	Thursday
• April 21, 2020	• April 16, 2020
• April 28, 2020	• April 23, 2020
• May 05, 2020	• April 30, 2020
• May 12, 2020	• May 07, 2020
	• May 14, 2020

To RSVP, visit <http://Comptroller.nyc.gov/events> or email diversity@comptroller.nyc.gov. Interpretation will be available in American Sign Language, Arabic, Bengali, Cantonese, French, Haitian Creole, Korean, Mandarin, Polish, Russian, Spanish, and Urdu. Please request interpretation services upon RSVP at least two days before each session.

Information provided during these sessions might change as emergency laws, resources and other factors evolve during the COVID-19 pandemic. We cannot advise you on such developments. Please consult US, NY, and NYC COVID-19 websites for the latest information.

GET HELP NAVIGATING THE CITY

If you are a business owner and need help navigating City procurement opportunities and resources, make an appointment with the Comptroller's Office by emailing diversity@comptroller.nyc.gov.

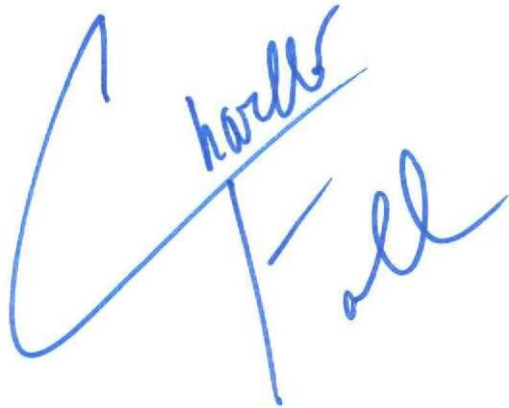
If you are a constituent and need assistance with complaints or inquiries about government services, please email the Comptroller's Community Action Center at action@comptroller.nyc.gov.

How To Help

1. The Staten Island Chamber of Commerce, Borough President Oddo, and UFT are coordinating the **'Feeding Our Frontline' campaign** to provide grab and go meals to Staten Island hospital staff. **[Click here for more information and to donate.](#)**
2. All New Yorkers who have recovered from COVID-19 are asked to contact the state and donate blood.
 - **Individuals who have recovered from the virus may have convalescent plasma in their blood, which has antibodies against the virus and could help with the development of a treatment for the virus.**
 - **[Find more information about how to donate blood here.](#)**
3. The First Responders Fund is a state initiative to assist COVID-19 health care workers and first responders with expenses and costs, including childcare. The State Department of Health is accepting donations for the fund, and Blackstone is making an anchor \$10 million contributions to the fund. **[Donations can be made electronically here.](#)**
4. Individuals, organizations, or companies offering to donate Personal Protective Equipment **[click here](#) or [click here.](#)**

5. **Fill out your US Census today, it is quick and easy and will determine how more than \$675 billion of federal funding is distributed to states and communities.**

Wishing you all health and safety,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Charles D. Fall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and "F".

Charles D. Fall
Member of Assembly

ALBANY OFFICE: Room 534, 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
E-mail: fallc@nyassembly.gov