



NEWS FROM

Speaker of the Assembly **Carl E. Heastie**

Dear Neighbor,

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken its toll on families across our state, financially, socially and otherwise. We are on our way to recovery, but I know New Yorkers everywhere need help.

I am proud that our NYS Assembly Majority, working with our partners in government, secured critical funding to help rise from the pandemic.

Below, please find COVID-19 relief resources that may be beneficial to you and your loved ones. As always, my office stands ready to assist you in any way possible.

Stay tuned for more updates.

With Love and Hope,

Carl E. Heastie
Speaker of the Assembly



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Speaker Heastie secures operating appropriations for local programs

- \$100,000 - Citizens Committee for New York City - Community revitalization programs
- \$3 million - Zoos, Botanical Gardens and Aquaria - Additional support
- \$1 million - Fresh Air Fund - Summer camp program for local youth
- \$75,000 - Hope Program - Job training program
- \$20,000 - Jewish Association for Services for the Aged Bay Eden Senior Center - Senior program
- \$250,000 - Junior Achievement of New York - Youth education programs
- \$100,000 - Mobilization for Justice - Legal assistance program for low-income residents
- \$25,000 - St. Luke's Community Food Program
- \$10,000 - St. Nicholas Chess 4 Kids, Inc.

Speaker Heastie secures funding for community programs

- \$2 million - New York Botanical Garden
- \$65,000 - DCJS NYC Health and Hospitals: Jacobi Medical Center - Gun violence reduction program
- \$65,000 - DCJS NYC Health and Hospitals: Lincoln Medical Center - Gun violence reduction program
- \$15,000 - Gun Hill Basketball Association, Inc. - Basketball tournament
- \$25,000 - ICNA Relief USA Programs - Food distribution program
- \$15,000 - SCO Family Services - Services for children with developmental disabilities
- \$150,000 - Nest Music Conservatory, Inc. - Music education program for children
- \$50,000 - New York Common Pantry, Inc. - Food pantry

- \$25,000 - Beulah Church of God Seventh Day, Inc. - Community health fair
- \$85,000 - New York Zoological Society - Bronx Zoo

Groups funded through the Special Projects Program

R.A.I.N. Inc. - Financial assistance provides support for the following R.A.I.N. Inc. senior centers: Gun Hill Neighborhood Senior Center, Boston Secor Neighborhood Senior Center, Eastchester Neighborhood Senior Center, and Boston East Neighborhood Senior Center.

Mind-Builders Creative Arts Center - Funds will be used to purchase materials and supplies for the Community Folk Culture Program. This program offers an opportunity for young adults to have hands-on experience with shared cultural arts and activities while documenting and archiving this heritage.

Education Through Music - Funds will be used to provide music instruction for children at PS 68 and PS 169.

AIM High Empowerment Program - Funds will be used to conduct a reading and math program hosted at PS 111.

East 233rd Street Senior Center - Financial assistance will provide materials for senior programs and activities.

Bronx Rises Against Gun Violence - Funding will be used to supplement gun violence initiatives in Bronx County.

New York Public Library - This funding will be used to purchase books and materials for local library branches in the Eastchester, Edenwald and Wakefield areas of the Bronx.

Speaker Heastie secures \$50,000 to fund the Bridgefield Civic League

Assemblyman Carl Heastie has nominated the Bridgefield Civic League to receive funding to help in the renovation of the facility and the ongoing education and service programs conducted by the league. The funding will help in the renovation of the exterior to the building and provide much-needed repairs. Additionally the funding will help the Bridgefield Civic League provide critical education services to local youth and mentoring and career training to the local community.

Assemblyman Carl Heastie nominates Wake-Eden Community Baptist Church for \$120,000 in STEM programming

In the final days of the legislative session, Assemblyman Heastie nominated Wake-Eden Community Baptist Church to be funded by the state to implement STEM programming. The funding will go to help children master "Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics" by implementing STEM programs that help youth get excited to explore sciences through interactive learning programs. Children who participate in STEM programs have shown the propensity to achieve greater success in their education and professional endeavors.

NAACP Williamsbridge Branch nominated for \$50,000 in funding by Assemblyman Heastie

The Williamsbridge Branch of the NAACP will be able to conduct education and after-school programming for local families with funding secured by Assemblyman Carl Heastie through the State Education Department. This program helps children achieve academically through education and mentoring from older students and adults.

Assemblyman Carl Heastie Secures \$50,000 in funding for the NCNW

The National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) has been nominated by Assemblyman Carl Heastie to receive funding to conduct an after-school program to help prepare youth for academic success.

Mind-Builders receives \$175,000 allocated by Speaker Heastie

The \$175,000 secured in the 2021-22 state budget will allow Mind-Builders Creative Arts Center to provide children with education in the arts. The program offers children enrichment and instruction in music, dance, theater and other arts programs. The programs are conducted year-round during out-of-school time to help keep young adults off the street and engaged in quality educational opportunities.

Assemblyman Carl Heastie secures \$50,000 in state funding for Bronx Bethany Community Corporation

Bronx Bethany Community Corporation will receive \$50,000 in state funding as the result of Assemblyman Heastie's advocacy. The funds will be used to allow local children to enjoy the benefits of a summer day camp.

Assemblyman Carl Heastie secures \$50,000 for the Northeast Bronx Day Care

Through a budget cleanup bill, Assemblyman Heastie has been able to nominate the Northeast Bronx Day Care Center (formerly known as the Susan Wagner Day Care) for funding to renovate the outdoor play area. The facility located at 4102 White Plains Road will be able to make some renovations so that children can enjoy playing outdoors. The funding will allow local youth to enjoy a safe, educational and clean play area.

Northeast Bronx YMCA to open late summer/early fall of 2021

The state-of-the-art \$60 million recreational facility and community center being constructed by the YMCA in the Northeast Bronx should be ready to open in the late summer/early fall of 2021. **This recreation center will be a historic asset to the community to provide better health maintenance and social opportunities for young and elderly alike.** It will provide children and families with a place to learn and grow in a healthy environment. The facility has been under construction for two years now but will be ready to go in the near future. This new facility, located at 1250 E. 229th St., will provide space for recreational use and social gatherings in the Northeast Bronx. Assemblyman Heastie was able to secure \$1.25 million in operating support for the Northeast Bronx YMCA and \$500,000 for financial assistance scholarships for family memberships.

YMCA
Opening
Soon!



ERAP
Accepting Applications!
otda.ny.gov/erap

Emergency Rental Assistance Program

The New York Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) is now accepting applications and can provide financial assistance to low- and moderate-income households who are experiencing homelessness or housing instability.

Residents are eligible for the program if they:

- Have a monthly gross (before tax) household income at or below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI), which varies by county and household size; **AND**
- On or after March 13, 2020, a member of the household qualified for unemployment benefits or experienced a reduction in income or increase in expenses due to the COVID-19 pandemic; **AND**
- Have rental arrears (rent overdue) at their current residence for rent owed on or after March 13, 2020. Eligible households may also be eligible for help paying utility arrears at the same rental unit.

Eligible households may receive:

- Up to 12 months of **rental arrears payments**
- Up to 3 months of **additional rental assistance** if the household spends 30% or more of their gross monthly income on rent
- Up to 12 months of electric or gas **utility arrears**

Payments are made directly to the landlord/property owner and utility company on the tenant's behalf, and applicants will be notified of the amount paid. If a landlord is difficult to locate or has not provided information needed to complete the application, funds will be held for 180 days to allow sufficient time to contact the landlord as well as provide tenant protection and increase landlord participation.

Visit www1.nyc.gov/site/hra/help/new-york-emergency-rental-assistance-program-erap.page to learn more.

Local organizations providing application assistance:

BronxWorks – 718-508-3107 | Neighborhood Association for Intercultural Affairs, Inc. (NAICA) – 718-866-0038



Small Business Recovery Grant program

The Small Business Recovery Grant Program for small and micro-businesses and small for-profit independent arts and cultural organizations who experienced a COVID-related financial hardship is now accepting applications. The \$800 million program was passed as part of this year's state budget.

Grants could be used to cover various business costs incurred between March 1, 2020, and April 1, 2021, including payroll, rent, mortgage, property and school taxes, insurance, utilities and pandemic-related expenditures that were necessary to protect the health and safety of workers and consumers.

Priority will be given to socially and economically disadvantaged applicants, including:

- minority- and women-owned business enterprises (MWBES)
- service-disabled veteran-owned businesses and veteran-owned businesses
- businesses located in communities that were economically distressed prior to March 1, 2020

Excluded Workers Fund

The Excluded Workers Fund was created to help workers with low income who suffered income loss due to COVID and who are not eligible for Unemployment Insurance (UI) or Economic Impact Payments (EIP) due to immigration status or other factors.

- This is a one time payment for help with income that was lost between March 27, 2020-April 1, 2021. Application forms will not include questions about citizenship or immigration status
- You must currently live in New York State and must have lived here before March 27, 2020
- There are 2 tiers of compensation based on the documents that you can provide:
 - Tier 1 can provide up to \$15,600 in benefits (minus taxes)
 - Tier 2 can provide up to \$3,200 in benefits (minus taxes)

Benefits will be paid by direct deposit, cash card, check, or another payment method. For more information about the Excluded Workers Fund, visit: <https://dol.ny.gov/EWF>.

Unemployment Insurance

New York State provides unemployment insurance (UI) benefits to individuals who lose their jobs through no fault of their own.

To qualify for UI benefits, you must have worked and earned enough wages in covered employment. In New York State, employers pay contributions that fund UI.

You must file an UI claim to find out if you are eligible and learn your actual benefit amount.

To collect benefits, you must be ready, willing, and able to work, and actively looking for work during each week in which you are claiming benefits. We understand that many of you are unable to work due to the COVID-19 pandemic and New York State on PAUSE. If you would otherwise be able to work, you should answer 'YES' in order to receive your benefits.

For more information on Unemployment Insurance, visit: <https://www.ny.gov/services/get-unemployment-assistance>.

If you are ineligible for unemployment:

If you are not traditionally eligible for unemployment benefits (self-employed, independent contractors, farmers, workers with limited work history, and others) and are unable to work as a direct result of the coronavirus public health emergency, you may now be eligible through Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). For more information, visit: <https://dol.ny.gov/coronavirus-aid-relief-and-economic-security-cares-act>.



New York State Homeowner Assistance Fund

New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) will be administering the New York State Homeowner Assistance Fund (NYS HAF) established by Congress under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. New York is expected to receive just under \$540 million in resources for this program, which will assist homeowners facing financial hardship due to COVID-19 by helping prevent mortgage delinquencies, defaults, foreclosures, loss of utilities or home energy services and displacements. Visit <https://hcr.ny.gov/homeowners> to learn more.

Program Guidance:

- Eligible uses primarily target preventing mortgage default and/or foreclosure and include mortgage and property tax arrears, condo and HOA fees.
- Homeowners must demonstrate a COVID impact which led to loss of income or significant increase in expenses.
- 60% of funds must go to households below 100% AMI, and a target of 40% of total funds must go to "socially disadvantaged households" primarily defined by race.



Plans for Program Structure:

- Based on the great success of the HOPP/MAP program New York created during the last foreclosure crisis, HCR intends to replicate this model.
- HOPP is a network of 70+ housing counseling agencies and legal services providers who specialize in foreclosure prevention. HOPP is currently funded by the New York State Attorney General and HCR intends to shift funds to that agency to renew those contracts in July to work under the HAF program.
- MAP (Mortgage Assistance Program) was funded out of past settlement funds during the foreclosure crisis. HOPP members assisted homeowners in submitting applications. Funds could be used to pay off arrears, create a principal reduction, or assist with a loan payoff etc. MAP was staffed by a CDFI, the Center for New York City Neighborhoods.

For more information on mortgage and foreclosure resources, visit: <https://www.dfs.ny.gov/consumers/coronavirus/mortgage>.

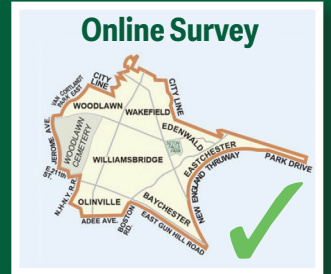
✓ BXCB12 Community Needs Survey

Bronx Community Board 12 wants to hear from you! Please take a few minutes to complete this survey which will help us understand what your individual needs are as well as the needs of your family members and this community.

This information will help us improve and develop more services and initiatives for this community.

Action Needed

1. Please fill out this survey using QR Scan.
2. Help circulate this survey.
3. Become an active member of your community.
4. For more information, please email: George Torres at gtorres@cb.nyc.gov and Ursula Greene at UGreene@cb.nyc.gov.



Instructions For QR Scan:

OPEN YOUR CAMERA AND SCAN ME WITH YOUR PHONE!

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Speaker
Carl E. Heastie

“As our communities continue to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, I’ll keep working to provide critical relief and support to Northeast Bronx families.”

– **Assemblyman Carl E. Heastie**

