



Dear neighbors,

With just one more week in the legislative session, my staff and I are gearing up for a busy week in Albany. I am looking forward to joining some of you on Monday to rally in support of the New York Health Act with the [Campaign for New York Health](#). Let's keep fighting!

I also want to thank Joe Salazar from WHCU 97.7FM/870AM for having me on this morning to talk about my legislation to place a moratorium on cryptomining in old, retired power plants in New York. This legislation is critical to ensure we reach the climate goals that were set into statute by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). [CLICK HERE TO TUNE IN!](#)

We also chatted about some of the strong supports for housing, workers, and small business in this year's budget. Keep reading below for details about some of these programs.

COVID-19 RELIEF

The Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), passed as part of this year's state budget, begins accepting applications on **Tuesday, June 1, 2021, at 9 a.m.** ERAP benefits are paid directly to the tenant's landlord or property owner or utility.

Eligible households may receive:

- up to 12 months of rental arrears payments for rent accrued on or after March 13, 2020
- up to 3 months of additional rental assistance if the household spends 30% or more of their monthly income on rent
- up to 12 months of electric or gas utility arrears payments for arrears accrued on or after March 13, 2020

Eligibility Requirements:

- Household gross income is at or below 80% of the area median income (AMI)
- A member of the household received unemployment benefits or experienced a reduction in income, incurred significant costs or experienced a financial hardship due to COVID-19 on or after March 13, 2020
- Household is at risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability, which can be demonstrated by having rental arrears owed on or after March 13, 2020
- For the first 30 days of the program, priority will be given to households with the greatest need

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 currently being finalized and will begin accepting applications soon. 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.



COVID-19 RELIEF: *Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)*

The **Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)**, passed as part of this year's state budget, begins accepting applications on **Tuesday, June 1, 2021, at 9 a.m.** to help eligible New Yorkers pay rent and utility costs. ERAP benefits are paid directly to the tenant's landlord or property owner or utility.

ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS MAY RECEIVE:

- up to 12 months of rental arrears payments for rent accrued on or after March 13, 2020
- up to 3 months of additional rental assistance if the household spends 30% or more of their monthly income on rent
- up to 12 months of electric or gas utility arrears payments for arrears accrued on or after March 13, 2020

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Household gross income is at or below 80% of the area median income (AMI)
- A member of the household received unemployment benefits or experienced a reduction in income, incurred significant costs or experienced a financial hardship due to COVID-19 on or after March 13, 2020
- Household is at risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability, which can be demonstrated by having rental arrears owed on or after March 13, 2020
- For the first 30 days of the program, priority will be given to households with the greatest need
- Both landlords and renters can apply and relief funds are sent directly to the landlord

Visit <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/Emergency-Rental-Assistance> to learn more and apply for the program beginning on June 1.

Note: Residents of Rochester, Monroe County, Yonkers, Onondaga County, Hempstead, Islip and Oyster Bay must apply for relief through local emergency rental assistance programs.

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 **currently being finalized and will begin accepting applications soon.** 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 (MWBs)
- service-disabled veteran-owned businesses and veteran-owned businesses
- businesses located in communities that were economically distressed prior to March 1, 2020

Visit <https://esd.ny.gov/pandemic-small-business-recovery-grant-program> to learn more

The Restaurant Resiliency Program, which was included in this year's state budget, is a \$25 million grant program that will provide funding to restaurants that choose to provide meals and food to people in distressed or under-represented communities. Grant funding will allow restaurants to cover the costs of food, preparation and delivery of meals to vulnerable populations. The program is still being finalized and will begin accepting applications soon.

Visit <https://esd.ny.gov/restaurant-resiliency-program> to learn more

The Restaurant Return-To-Work Tax Credit, which was included in the state budget, will provide qualifying businesses with a tax credit of \$5,000 per new worker hired, up to \$50,000 per business. The program will be open to all small, independently owned restaurants in New York City or in areas that were designated by the state Department of Health (DOH) as either an Orange or a Red Zone for at least 30 consecutive days. Applicants must be able to demonstrate COVID-related revenue losses and hire at least one full-time worker for the restaurant. Program details are still being finalized.

Visit <https://esd.ny.gov/restaurant-return-work-tax-credit> to learn more

As always, please give my office a call if you need any help navigating these resources and my staff will be happy to help you.

And finally, before I sign off for this week, June is Pride Month and I want to pass along wishes for a safe and joyful celebration to all of our LGBTQ+ friends and neighbors. Let's take a moment to reaffirm our commitment to fighting for equality, equity, and love.



June is **PRIDE MONTH**

Stand up for LGBTQ rights,
celebrate visibility and fight bigotry.

In good health,

Anna Kelles, Ph.D.

Assemblymember, 125th A.D.

ALBANY OFFICE
LOB 833
Albany, NY 12248
518-455-5444

CORTLAND OFFICE
83 Main St
PO Box 5026
Cortland, NY 13045
607-208-2024

ITHACA OFFICE
106 East Court Street
Ithaca, NY 14850
607-277-8030

Assembly District 125 | kellesa@nyassembly.gov

