



August 3, 2021

Dear Friends,

This week begins further rollout of new Covid-19 relief programs for individuals and businesses, as well as additional information about programs already announced. State agencies have been developing the application materials for the programs we included in the state budget adopted in April. If you or your business was affected by the economic impact of the pandemic, there may be assistance that meets your situation.

Restaurant Return to Work Tax Credit  
Excluded Workers Fund Applications  
Child Care Grants  
Homeowner Assistance Program  
Emergency Rental Assistance Program  
Small Business Recovery Programs  
Federal SBA Paycheck Protection Program  
NYS Assistance Programs

My staff and I continue to work with small businesses, individuals needing help with unemployment insurance processing, not-for-profits and on any issue where we can be helpful. Please call my office at 914-939-7028 if you need assistance.

Warm regards,





### **Restaurant Return-to-Work Tax Credit Program**

The \$35 million Restaurant Return-to-Work Tax Credit Program provides an incentive to COVID-impacted restaurants to bring restaurant staff back-to-work, and to increase hiring at NYS restaurants. Qualifying businesses are eligible for a tax credit of \$5,000 per new worker hired, up-to \$50,000 per business. The Program is open to eligible restaurants located in New York City, or in an area outside of New York City that was designated an Orange or Red Zone for at least thirty consecutive days.

To be responsive to the needs of COVID-impacted restaurants, the Restaurant Return-to-Work Tax Credit provides a Fast Track Option, which allows a business to claim the credit before the end of the tax year.

Restaurants may claim the credit after August 31, 2021 (Fast Track Option), if the business can demonstrate a net employee increase of at least 1 full-time employee as measured from April 1, 2021 to August 31, 2021.

Alternatively, restaurants can choose to claim the tax credit on their 2021 NYS tax

return if the business can demonstrate a net employee increase of at least 1 full-time employee as measured from April 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021.

To see eligibility requirements and to learn more, click [HERE](#).



### **Excluded Workers Fund Applications Now Live**

Applications for the Excluded Workers Fund (EWF) are now being accepted. The \$2.1 billion fund was created to support New Yorkers who could not get unemployment, pandemic, or other federal relief benefits. It is the first entirely

state-run and state-funded program in the country to support workers who did not qualify for government-issued economic relief.

The multi-lingual application can be found at [ewf.labor.ny.gov](http://ewf.labor.ny.gov).

### **Program Information**

Multi-lingual FAQs are available at [dol.ny.gov/ewf](http://dol.ny.gov/ewf), with additional program information including qualification requirements, benefit amounts, and documents needed for applicants to verify identity, residency, and work history. *Funds will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, so those eligible are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.*

### **Release of Benefit Payments**

Approved applicants will receive a one-time payment on a Visa® prepaid card mailed to the address provided in their application. The card has ATM access and can be used everywhere Visa® debit cards are accepted in the U.S.

From the date of application, fund administrators estimate that review and processing will take approximately six to eight weeks. If an application is incomplete or requires additional information or documents, it may take longer to process the application. As EWF is a new program and volumes are difficult to estimate, timeframes are subject to change.

### **Avoiding Fraud**

Eligible applicants are encouraged to apply ***only*** on the Excluded Workers Fund website or with the help of trusted [community-based organizations](#). Fraudulent activity can be reported to the Attorney General's Office at (800) 771-7755.

For more information, visit the EWF homepage at [dol.ny.gov/ewf](http://dol.ny.gov/ewf).



### **Historic Nearly \$1.1 Billion in Grants to Support Child Care Providers**

Governor Cuomo announced that New York State will administer nearly \$1.1 billion in federal funding directly to child care providers to help stabilize the industry and

enable more parents to return to the workplace fulltime. The funding - available

through the American Rescue Plan Act and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act - represents the largest single investment in child care in New York State history. It will provide direct support to child care programs and help replenish losses experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The New York State [Office of Children and Family Services](#) will manage the grant funding. Funding applications will open Wednesday, August 4. Today's announcement gives child care providers time to prepare and gather relevant materials needed for their application.

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### **Homeowner Assistance Program Coming Soon**

Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) will be launching the Homeowner Assistance Program in approximately early September. A video of a recent webinar outlining the program and its timeline is available on HCR's website: <https://hcr.ny.gov/homeowners>.

I will share more information about this program as it becomes available.

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### **Emergency Rental Assistance Program**



## **Emergency Rental Assistance Program**

Households adversely affected by COVID-19 can qualify for up to **12 months of past due rent, three months of future rent** and up to **12 months of overdue utility bills**. Applications accepted beginning June 1.

**For more information, visit [otda.ny.gov/ERAP](https://otda.ny.gov/ERAP)**



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## SMALL BUSINESS RECOVERY PROGRAMS

[Empire State Development](#)

[Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program](#)

[Other key programs and information:](#)

[Restaurant Resiliency Program](#)

[Restaurant Return to Work Tax Credit](#)

[NY Forward Loan Fund](#)

[ArtsWestchester Grant Program \[grants@artswestchester.org\]\(mailto:grants@artswestchester.org\)](#)

[NYS Council of the Arts \[help@arts.ny.gov\]\(mailto:help@arts.ny.gov\)](#)

[Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program - FAQ](#)

[Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program - Program Overview](#)

[Help Navigating State and Federal Small Business Assistance Programs](#)



U.S. Small Business  
Administration

### **SBA Paycheck Protection Program Forgiveness Portal Accepting Applications Starting August 4th**

*Upcoming webinars scheduled to review portal, forms, calculation and  
documentation*

On July 28th, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced a streamlined application portal which will allow borrowers with Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans \$150,000 or less through participating lenders to apply for forgiveness directly through the SBA. The portal will begin accepting applications on August 4th.

Lenders are required to opt-in to this program through <https://directforgiveness.sba.gov>. In addition to the technology platform, the SBA has a PPP customer service team to answer questions and directly assist borrowers with their forgiveness applications. Borrowers that need assistance or have questions should call (877) 552-2692, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. EST.

The following webinars are being offered by the SBA to provide additional information on the Forgiveness Application, including the portal, forms, calculation and documentation:

[Wed. August 4, 2021 at 12pm](#)

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### **NYS Assistance Programs Available**

While some federal relief programs are expiring soon, New York State offers support and services for eligible individuals. To apply for state assistance programs and learn more about eligibility requirements, visit [mybenefits.ny.gov](https://mybenefits.ny.gov)

## **On Sept. 5, 2021, several federal unemployment programs are expiring:**

- ▶ Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)
- ▶ Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)
- ▶ Extended Benefits (EB)
- ▶ \$300 Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)



Visit [dol.ny.gov/fedexp](https://dol.ny.gov/fedexp) to connect with state benefit programs and job search resources.