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 **Assemblyman**
Steve Otis

91st Assembly District
Larchmont - Mamaroneck - New Rochelle - Port Chester - Rye Brook and Rye



Yesterday marked Kathy Hochul's first day as governor of the State of New York. She becomes the 57th governor in our state's history which dates back to 1777. Governor Hochul took the oath of office at midnight and has immediately stated her intention to work with everyone to make the best decisions for NY.

She met yesterday with the Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie and Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins with the goal of getting to work immediately on the many challenges facing New York.

Over the past seven years, Governor Hochul has attended meetings and met with New Yorkers in every corner of our state. She brings valuable experience at every level of government. She is committed to responsive, effective government. I have seen her in many of these settings, including her many visits to Westchester. I have great confidence in our new governor, and I know we are all rooting for her success in addressing the issues before us.

[Governor Hochul Announces Important Actions Upon Taking Office](#)

Governor Hochul has gotten off to a strong start in her first twenty-four hours as governor. She immediately issued a directive to school districts regarding masking and is undertaking an [updated review of procedures](#) for schools across the state.

The governor also targeted an issue that has been a major concern of mine and my colleagues in the legislature: the need to get [rental relief funds out the door](#) to benefit tenants and landlords.

I will continue to work on both of these issues. The Governor's attention will be helpful.

As Chair of the Assembly Committee on Science and Technology, I am talking to tech companies from around the country about how states acquire technology to run online programs that provide important services to the public. This has been a question we have raised during Covid-19 on unemployment insurance, DOH issues and now the rental assistance programs.

Serving on the Assembly Education Committee, I know that school districts, parents and teachers need better clarity regarding health information and how to plan for opening of schools for the fall term.



Covid-19 Testing Remains Important

With vaccination percentages rising in Westchester and New York State, many people have assumed that Covid-19 tests are not needed. Recent health reports have shown an increase in Covid-19 cases by some individuals already vaccinated. "Break-through infections" are on the increase.

Testing may make sense if you have been exposed or have symptoms. For Covid testing information please visit the [NYS DOH website](#).

Find a Covid Test Site

The Department of Health maintains a directory of Covid testing sites by zip code. To find a testing site in your area visit the NYS DOH website [HERE](#). Private sites may be charging a co-pay or billing insurance. Please call the site you intend to

use to inquire about related costs.

Vaccines Required for Healthcare Workers

All healthcare workers in NYS hospitals and long-term care facilities, including nursing homes, adult care, and other congregate care settings, will be required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 by Monday, September 27. To date, 75% of the state's ~450,000 hospital workers, 74% of the state's ~30,000 adult care facility workers, and 68% of the state's ~145,500 nursing home workers have completed their vaccine series.

The Department of Health has also authorized 3rd dose vaccines for persons who received the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine only at this time, with boosters expected in September.

The CDC is currently recommending that moderately to severely immunocompromised people receive an additional dose. New Yorkers should contact their healthcare provider about whether getting an additional dose is appropriate for them at this time.



As has been the case far too frequently, Haiti has suffered another natural disaster and is in need of humanitarian assistance. There are a number of recognized efforts trying to meet the needs of people living in one of the poorest countries on our hemisphere.

If you are interested in supporting organizations on the ground in Haiti, here are a few recommended organizations working on relief efforts. Below are links to their websites for your consideration.

[Ayiti Air Anbilans](#)

[Ayiti Community Trust Foundation](#)

[Capracare](#)

[Fonkoze](#)

[Hope For Haiti](#)

[Partners In Health](#)

[Project St. Anne](#)

New Rochelle Library Seeks Input From Residents

The New Rochelle Public Library Board of Trustees is embarking on a strategic planning process. Their top priority is to engage all New Rochelle residents, including Library users and non-users, of all backgrounds and geographical locations by gathering input via a brief [survey](#) (available in English and Spanish.) If you are a New Rochelle resident who has not yet participated, please help in the effort by taking a few minutes to complete this [survey](#).



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



Office of Temporary
and Disability Assistance

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 to connect with state benefit programs and job search resources.

Excluded Workers Fund Updates

Since launching on August 1, the Excluded Workers Fund application process has been running smoothly. To ensure that eligible workers are able to apply, fund administrators are continuously reviewing and updating the application process in coordination with our partner agencies and organizations.

Important updates and reminders will be posted as needed on the program FAQ page: dol.ny.gov/EWFApply

Lowered State Retirement System Costs will Help at the Local Level

With the resurgence of the state economy and the stock market State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli has announced a reduction of employer contribution rates for the State Retirement System (ERS). This announcement will help lower budget costs for state and local governments throughout New York. At the local and county government level these reductions help lessen the cost on our local property taxes. Most school district employees are in the Teachers Retirement System (TRS) but each school district has some employees in ERS and will see some lower costs as well. Click [HERE](#) for the State Comptroller DiNapoli's announcement.

Legal Services of the Hudson Valley

Legal Services of the Hudson Valley (LSHV) has a new Family Defense Unit, the first holistic, multidisciplinary program to provide representation to Westchester County parents accused of neglect or abuse.

LSHV clients are provided a legal team consisting of a social worker, a parent or family advocate, and an attorney, who work together to help address the client's legal and social service needs. In addition to representing clients accused of abuse or neglect in family court, LSHV also represents clients during CPS investigations and can assist them in amending and sealing any indicated reports on record with the State Central Registry. The LSHV goal is to prevent the unnecessary separation of families, and where children have been removed, to work with the family to ensure reunification as quickly as possible. To learn more, please visit their website [HERE](#).



ESD Updates - Pandemic Assistance and Ongoing Grant Opportunities

New York State Innovation Summit

- The 2021 New York State Innovation Summit will showcase companies and researchers at the forefront of emerging technologies and new advancements in production capabilities. Takes Place **November 8-9, 2021**, at Turning Stone Resort, Verona, NY.
- This event celebrates New York State leadership in technology-led economic growth with experts in biotechnology, new materials, energy innovation, and artificial intelligence who will explore current technology convergence opportunities, ways to accelerate commercialization, and issues of manufacturing sustainability.
- Register as an Attendee [Here](#) ; Register Your Exhibit [Here](#)

Economic Development Opportunity Highlights

New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) Round 3 Funding Applications Due September 1, 2021 at 4PM: Support for Organizations, Support for Artists, Special Opportunities, and Recovery Grants

- Eligibility: Any NYS not-for-profit organization with an arts program. Applicants must be prequalified by the application deadline.
- Grants offered in this round will greatly expand eligibility and encourage new applicants across a wide spectrum of artistic and cultural practices. Priority will be given to applicants that serve historically underrepresented communities.
- Guidelines can be found [HERE](#). NYSCA Application Manual can be found [HERE](#).

Funding Still Available: [New York State COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program](#)

- If you applied for the New York State's \$800 million Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program, additional information or documentation about your business may be needed to complete the application and get your business funding. Please call [877-721-0097](tel:877-721-0097), M-F 8 am – 8 pm, to make sure your application is complete.
- The New York State COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program was created to provide flexible grant assistance to currently viable small businesses, micro-businesses and for-profit independent arts and cultural organizations in the State of New York who have experienced economic hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Grant awards will be calculated based on a business's annual gross receipts for 2019 (see below for more information). Grant amounts and calculations are subject to change by Empire State Development.
 - Annual gross receipts: \$25,000 – \$49,999.99: Award is \$5,000 / business
 - Annual gross receipts: \$50,000 – \$99,999.99: Award is \$10,000 / business
 - Annual gross receipts: \$100,000 – \$500,000: Award is 10% of gross receipts (maximum grant is \$50,000)
- Learn More and Access the Application [Here](#)

[American Rescue Plan Program Resources](#)

- The American Rescue Plan allocates \$3 billion to the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) in supplemental funding to assist communities nationwide in their efforts to build back better by accelerating

the economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and building local economies that will be resilient to future economic shocks.

- View a recorded webinar going over the resources [HERE](#)
- Access more information on the resources available [HERE](#)

Funding Still Available: Eligible Households Can Sign Up for Emergency Broadband Benefit

- You may be eligible to receive up to \$50 off your monthly broadband bill through the FCC's Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBB).
- Visit <https://getemergencybroadband.org/> to find out if your household qualifies, and to sign up.
- Visit the [Broadband Benefit Consumer FAQ for more information about the program](#). A full list of participating New York internet service providers is [available here](#).

Funding Still Available: Child Care Stabilization Grants – Application Available [HERE](#)

- The New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) is accepting applications for the Child Care Stabilization Grant made available through the federal American Rescue Plan Act and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act.
- The goal of the Child Care Stabilization Grant is to provide financial relief to child care providers to help cover unexpected business costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, and to help stabilize their operations so they may continue to provide care.
- Learn more about this program [HERE](#)

[Hudson River Valley Greenway Grant Program](#) – deadlines are Sep 10, and Nov 8, 2021

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

[NYS Council of the Arts](#) 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](#)



Or to find vaccine sites near you - Text your zip code to '438829' or visit

vaccines.com



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