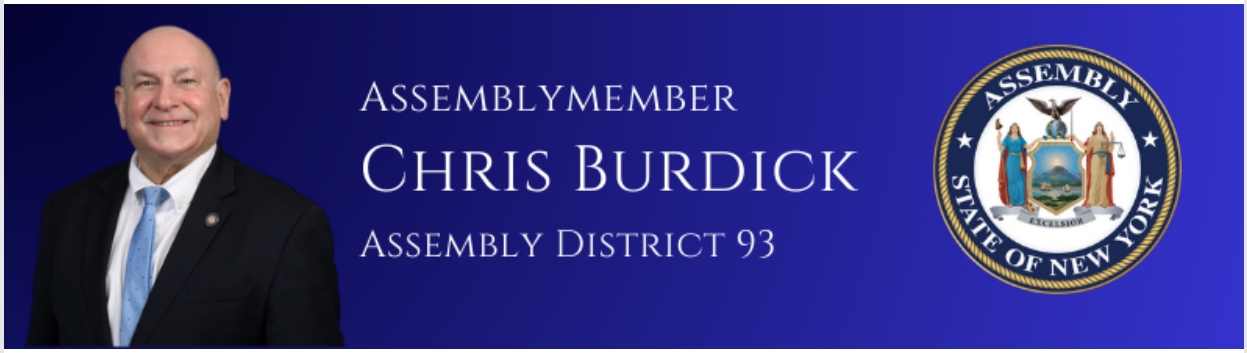


Dear Friends,

A HUGE thank you to everyone who donated to our Diaper Awareness Month drive! Earlier this month, we delivered the diapers to 914Cares, joined by Assemblymembers Dana Levenberg and MaryJane Shimsky, Westchester County Board Chair Vedat Gashi, and Assemblywoman Amy Paulin's office.





While we are no longer collecting diapers in the office, **914Cares is always in need of diapers, period supplies, clothing, and other items,** and will accept contributions at their headquarters in Armonk. **Click here to learn more.**

NYS Department of Labor Unemployment System Upgrade (and Interruption)

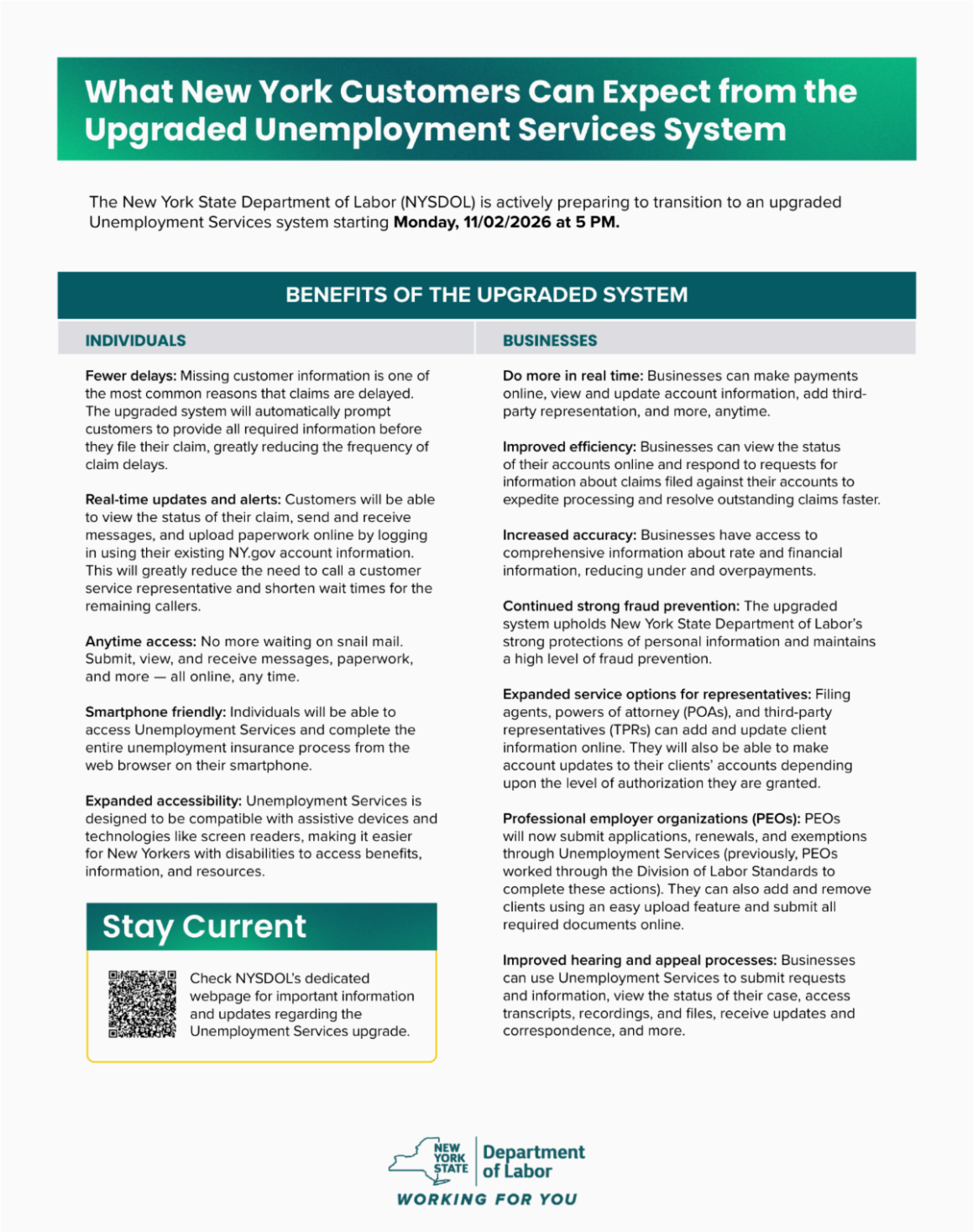
If you are currently receiving unemployment benefits, or plan to begin filing for unemployment, please be aware that the **NYS Department of Labor will begin upgrading its Unemployment Services System on Monday, November 2nd at 5 PM.**

The upgrade period will last 9 to 12 calendar days, during which unemployment services will be unavailable (including online and phone services).

As a result, unemployment payments will be delayed, as you will be unable to file or certify for benefits. **Once the upgrade is complete, you can apply for any missed**

payments.

We recognize that this upgrade period will be difficult for many. Please know, however, that the upgrade is intended to improve the system for all.



To learn more about the upgrade and for updates, please click here.

Heating Bill & Equipment Assistance

Heating a home during the winter months can be very costly. Assistance options are available for low- and moderate-income households.

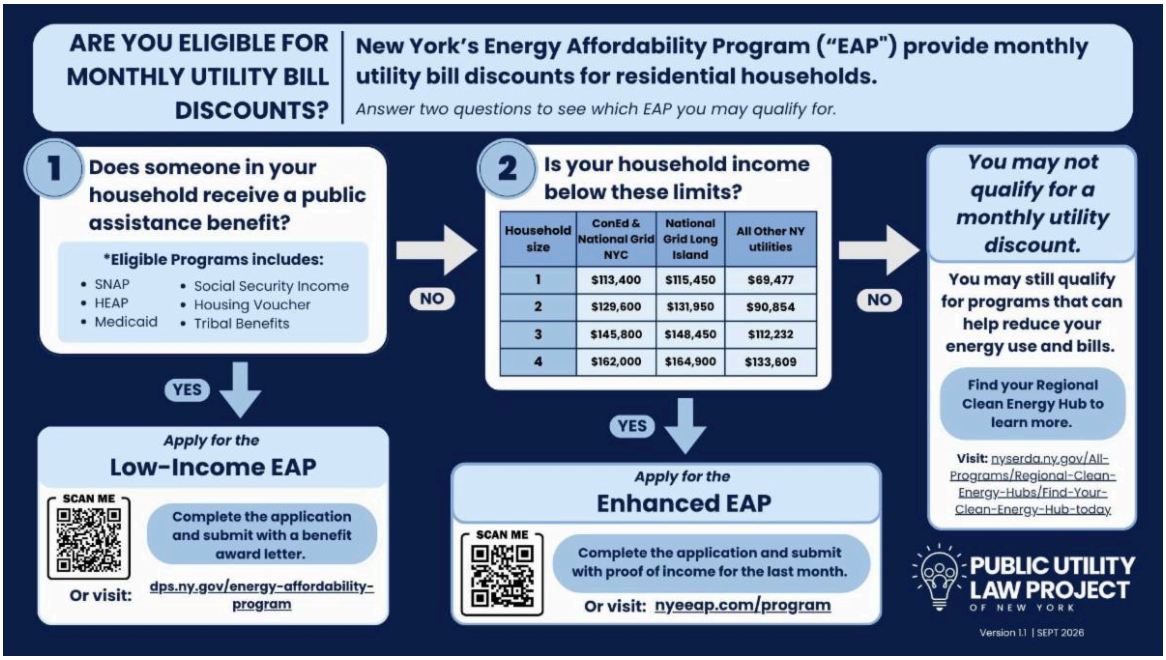
EAP (Energy Assistance Program)

EAP provides financial relief to New York households with annual income levels below Area Median Income or State Median Income, depending on utility service territory. **The program is meant to make electric and/or natural gas utility bills more affordable for income-eligible consumers** through monthly bill discounts applied directly to your bills. **Click here for more information.**

EEAP (Enhanced Energy Assistance Program)

For those who do not meet the income eligibility of EAP, the state is currently offering a discount through EEAP, a 2-year pilot program that began earlier this year and offers discounts to reduce energy costs for low- and moderate-income households. While not all utilities are part of the pilot program, and the discount varies by utility, both ConEd and NYSEG are participating providers.

Please **click here** for more information, and **click here to apply.**



Graphic Credit: Public Utility Law Project of New York

HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program)

HEAP, which is primarily funded through an annual federal block grant, can help eligible New Yorkers heat their homes, **including those heated by electricity, natural gas, oil, or propane.** If you are eligible, you may receive one regular HEAP benefit per program year and could also be eligible for emergency HEAP benefits if you are in danger of running out of fuel or having your utility service shut off.

Most households receiving HEAP will receive it automatically if they are enrolled in other assistance programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Public Assistance (PA). The Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA)

prepares these automatic payments so the payments can be issued promptly once the program opens.

Households that do not automatically receive assistance can begin applying on Monday, November 2nd. The benefit amounts vary based on income, household size, primary heating source, and whether the household includes a member under 6, age 60 or over, or is permanently disabled. **Click here for more information on applying for HEAP.**

HERR (Heating Equipment Repair and Replacement)

If you are a homeowner and eligible, the HERR benefit can help you repair or replace your furnace, boiler, and other direct heating equipment necessary to keep your home's primary heating source working. **Benefit amounts are based on the actual cost incurred to repair or replace your furnace, boiler, and/or other essential heating equipment, up to $4,000 for a repair and $8,000 for a replacement.** Before work is started, it must be approved and authorized by a HEAP Local District Contact. Payment is made directly to the vendor after all the work is completed.



Graphic credit: Public Utility Law Project of New York

HERR is a benefit of New York State's HEAP program. **Click here for more information and how to apply.**

Give Blood, Save a Life!

This Sunday, October 25th, give blood and help save a life in memory of a wonderful person and good friend to so many! There are still plenty of appointments available.

Scan the QR code below or **click here to schedule your donation**.



If you are not able to make it on Sunday, but still want to donate blood, please consider finding an American Red Cross or NY Blood Center blood drive or donation center near you.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office with any questions or if there is any assistance we can provide. You can always reach me at burdickc@nyassembly.gov or by calling (914) 244-4450. My staff and I are always ready to help.

Please also follow me on **Facebook**, **Twitter/X**, and **Instagram** for continued up-to-date information.

Sincerely yours,



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