



Home Heating Assistance



The application for regular HEAP benefits is now open. Eligibility for the program is based on income, household size, primary heating source and whether a member of the household is under the age of 6, over the age of 60 or permanently disabled, with applications for assistance accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

This year, a family of four that has a household income of up to \$4,797 a month may qualify for help and each household can receive up to \$726 in assistance. Applications for an extra emergency benefit open on Jan. 2, 2020, and are available to households that are in danger of having their service shut off or have run out of fuel.

Washington County Department of Social Services:

383 Broadway, Building B
Fort Edward, NY 12828
518-746-2300

Saratoga County Department of Social Services:

152 West High Street
Ballston Spa, NY 12020
518-884-4140

Applications for HEAP can be made electronically at <https://www.mybenefits.ny.gov> or at the local Department of Social Services.

Legislative Highlights

Working to Eliminate Drunk Driving (A.7494a):

I am proud to have been named a Mother's Against Drunk Driving (MADD) 2019 Legislator of the Year for my efforts to increase the efficacy of Ignition Interlock Devices (IID) and reduce drunk driving (A.7494a). This legislation would replace the current system with one that will increase interlock usage for all offenders, drastically reduce grounds for avoiding the sanction, make first offenders subject to IID usage when they enter into a plea reduction, and provide incentives for proper use of the device. In short, this bill provides the legal community with tools to further ensure a reduction in the number of individuals who are driving under the influence of alcohol by expanding the use of ignition interlock devices. This legislation was passed in the Senate during the last year, and I will work hard to get it passed in the Assembly during the upcoming session. I am proud to champion this issue and thank MADD for their support.

Supporting Our Veterans (Ch. 483 of 2019):

Veterans organizations foster a spirit of camaraderie and community amongst the brave men and women who served our country, and our veterans' posts provide an inviting space for them to congregate and host events. This past session, I authored legislation to remove a financial burden on these organizations by permitting our counties to waive fees associated with capital improvement projects on veterans' posts, which was signed on Veteran's Day (Ch. 483 of 2019). This is just one small way that we can show our gratitude and support for our veterans and all of the important work that they do in our communities, and I was proud to be the prime sponsor.

District Grants



City of Mechanicville

- \$200,000 to the City of Mechanicville/MACSC

I'm excited to announce that \$200,000 was recently awarded to the City of Mechanicville to aid in improvements to its firehouse as well as improvements to the Mechanicville Area Community Services Center. MACSC recently celebrated its 50th anniversary and is a fantastic resource to the community and is continually expanding the services it offers. This money will help with necessary improvements to the accessibility of the firehouse and MACSC and ensures visitors have safe access to these spaces.

Village of Victory

- \$125,000 for the upgraded road equipment

This grant will allow the Department of Public Works to purchase a truck, tractor, and a snow blower/mower machine to aid in their duties. The purchase of this new equipment will replace current machines the village uses that are outdated and in need of repairs. New equipment like this will be a great benefit and will make it easier for a small village like Victory to maintain its roads, ensuring the safety of all who use them.



Towns of Stillwater, Greenwich, Hartford, and Hudson Falls

- Stillwater: \$125,000 to create facilities at Brown's Beach
- Greenwich: \$250,000 to create rec center at Hudson Crossing Park
- Hartford: \$125,000 for the Civil War Enlistment Center and Elisha Straight House
- Hudson Falls: \$250,000 for the Strand Theatre

Over the past year, I'm delighted to say several projects received complete grant funding. In Hudson Falls, the Strand Theatre recently re-opened with the help of a \$250,000 grant to repair its roof. The Strand Theatre was built in 1923 and until recently was used as a municipal office building. Now, it's ready for prime time with a renovated stage, new auditorium seating, and a coffee shop. I can't wait to catch some of the more than 150 events there next year!

In Hartford, \$125,000 was secured in a grant to revitalize the town's Howard Hanna Memorial Civil War Enlistment Center and the Elisha Straight House, which houses the museum and local artifacts. I'm proud to support projects that preserve historic structures and tell the rich history of our region.

Hartford CSD

- \$250,000 to Hartford CSD for a new generator

The purpose of this grant is to help the Hartford Central School District purchase and install a generator, as well as make renovations to the Elementary Office to improve the safety of its entranceway. By creating a more secure entryway, Hartford CSD is taking proactive steps to ensure that students, faculty, and staff are safe from potential threats.



Funding for Those in Recovery

Our priority project allocating \$12,500 for the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention Council of Saratoga County was recently approved by the Division of Budget. This money will go toward expanding its services to provide programs for people in recovery who are parents, a group that has not previously been targeted with programs to aid in recovery.

District Highlights

I participated in a Joint Legislative Hearing on Rural Broadband sponsored by the Joint Legislative Commission on Rural Resources and the Assembly's Standing Committee on Local Governments. Over the course of six hours of testimony, we heard from the Governor's Broadband Project Office and Public Service Commission on the status of the \$500 million investment made to expand broadband access to all New Yorkers, and we heard from 21 citizens, local elected officials, economic development organizations, academics, and school officials on the subject. My key takeaways from the hearing are the following:

- At the conclusion of the third and final phase of the broadband program, a significant amount of the geography of rural New York will be provided internet service via satellite at speeds less than the targeted 25 Mbps (download), a lesser amount will be serviced by wireless broadband at around 25 Mbps, and a still smaller number of households will have access to broadband at 100 Mbps provided by fiber optic cable (Fiber to the Home or FTTH).
- Internet service via satellite providers has lower reliability, greater latency, and does not provide a platform for migration to newer technologies like 5G that require fiber. It is, in short, not sufficient to meet the needs of businesses, health care providers, or most consumers.
- The coverage maps that come from the FCC obscure the actual number of parcels in a census tract that are serviced by broadband. We heard from groups in Essex and Columbia counties who have taken up the task of generating accurate maps for their counties, and the stark reality is that there still exists large

sections of geography that are not reached by service of any sort.

- The goal is a worthy one: All New Yorkers must have access to broadband at speeds sufficient to support business, health care, and education. While progress has been made, we remain a long way from achieving the goal. To get there, I believe we need a different approach. Just as in the 1930s when rural electrification was realized, we need to recognize that broadband is a utility that is needed by each household. We need the Public Service Commission to regulate the providers like electric distribution companies to ensure that all of the households reached by electric power and by landline telephone service are also reached by broadband. And we need continued government subsidies, similar to when rural electrification was done, to ensure that it happens.

I will be working with my colleagues in the Assembly and the Senate to craft legislation that will address these issues and expand coverage for our rural communities.

In September, I hosted an MWBE Town Hall with Valerie White, Executive Director of the Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) program. The goal of this town hall was to offer business owners who are currently enrolled in the MWBE program, or who are applying or thinking about applying, an opportunity to hear directly from the director of the program about the recent changes to the program and to offer feedback about their experiences as an MWBE participant. One of the participants in this town hall, as well as a roundtable hosted earlier in the year, was Dorothy Rogers-Bullis. Dorothy is a local business owner who was denied her MWBE recertification and

came to my office looking for help correcting it. I worked with Dorothy to get the state to review her application and am happy to say that she is finally recertified with the state as an MWBE business!

“I met with Carrie Woerner in the spring of 2018 to discuss the challenges of becoming certified with the New York State WBE system. I was very frustrated to say the least. Carrie spent the time listening and figuring out how to help me through the process. She became my closest advocate and helped me through the process. I am now certified with the New York State WBE system. I cannot thank Carrie and her team enough for their professionalism and guidance.”

– Dorothy Rogers-Bullis

The owners of Slickfin Brewing in Fort Edward reached out to my office after waiting months for the State Liquor Authority to approve their liquor license. We were able to intervene on their behalf and get the SLA to expedite their application. I am happy to say that the owners of Slickfin brewery are now brewing and open for business. Situations like this one are exactly why I authored A.2094, the “Honesty in Permit Processing Act.” Many state agencies, notably the State Liquor Authority

(SLA) and the State Education Department (SED), have large backlogs for various permits. Yet, many New Yorkers depend on these agencies for permits necessary to get a job, open a business, or enjoy recreational activities. It is only fair to these applicants that the state provide them with some expectation of how long they’ll have to wait. When people’s livelihoods are stake, it’s not unreasonable for the state to inform them of a likely processing time.

Upcoming Town Halls

Thursday, Feb. 13, 6:30 p.m.
Greenwich Library, 148 Main St., Greenwich

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 6:30 p.m.
Moreau Community Center
144 Main St., South Glens Falls

Wednesday, Feb. 19, 6:30 p.m.
Saratoga Springs Library, Dutcher Room
49 Henry St., Saratoga Springs

Thursday, Feb. 20, 6:30 p.m.
Strand Theatre, 210 Main St., Hudson Falls

112 Spring St., Suite 205, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866



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“I hope this holiday season has brought you and your family peace and joy. I wish you a happy New Year and look forward to seeing you out and about in the community!”

– Assemblywoman **Carrie Woerner**



Carrie with her nieces Willa and Faye