

**When times are tough, we
need to pull together and
lend a helping hand. Look
inside for information on
resources that may be helpful
to you or your neighbor**



Harry B. Bronson

“As we continue this year’s legislative session, we cannot forget the neighbors that need our support during these difficult times. That’s why I want to inform our community of the resources that are available to ensure we all have the support we need to thrive.”

- ASSEMBLYMEMBER HARRY B. BRONSON



ASSEMBLYMEMBER HARRY BRONSON

wants you to take advantage of critical resources

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Assemblymember Bronson: Helping income-eligible families access important resources

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP):

HEAP helps low-income residents pay the cost of heating their homes. You may receive one regular HEAP benefit per program year if you are eligible. You could be eligible for Emergency HEAP benefits if you are in danger of running out of fuel or having your utility service shut off. Eligibility and benefits are based on income, household size, primary heating source and who resides in the household. To learn more, visit otda.ny.gov/programs/heap or call **585-753-6477**.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP):

SNAP issues electronic benefits that can be used like cash to purchase food at authorized retail food stores. SNAP benefits are provided through an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card, and every month, your benefits will be deposited directly into your EBT account. Eligibility and benefit levels are based on household size, income and other factors.

SNAP now provides a simplified one-page application form, which allows older New Yorkers to recertify their benefits for 36 months rather than 24 months and eliminates the interview requirement for recertification. To learn more about SNAP and apply for benefits, visit otda.ny.gov/programs/snap or call **585-753-2780**.

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP):

LIHWAP helps income-eligible households pay past due bills for drinking water and wastewater services. The benefit is based on the actual amount of drinking water and wastewater arrears, up to \$2,500 per drinking water or wastewater provider, or \$5,000 if drinking water and wastewater services are combined. Eligibility and benefits are based on income, household size and the amount owed to drinking water and wastewater providers.



To find out if you are eligible or to fill out an application, visit otda.ny.gov/programs/water-assistance.

Tax Season Reminder:

The American Rescue Plan expanded the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to help Americans access the benefits they need to succeed. Advance payments of up to half the 2021 Child Tax Credit were sent to eligible taxpayers and, if you received advance payments, you can claim the rest of the Child Tax Credit when you file your 2021 tax return.

Those who qualify for EITC can use the credit to reduce the taxes you owe, and they may increase your refund. You can claim the EITC if your income is low-to-moderate. The amount of the credit may change if you have children, dependents, are disabled or meet other criteria.

For more information on these programs and to see if you qualify, visit irs.gov/credits-deductions/advance-child-tax-credit-payments-in-2021 and irs.gov/credits-deductions/individuals/earned-income-tax-credit-etc.

Nourish New York Program:

The Nourish New York Program helps people who are food insecure access the nutritious food they need while providing a market for farmers to sell their products. \$85 million has been dedicated to the program so far to allow New York's emergency food providers to purchase surplus products from farmers and deliver them to families in need through the end of the year.

New York farmers, suppliers and processors are encouraged to share details about their available products, including produce, meat, eggs, seafood and dairy products, so food banks across the state can find and distribute them.

To learn more, visit agriculture.ny.gov/NourishNY.

Creating Assets, Savings and Hope (CASH)

CASH offers free tax return preparation services **by appointment only** for income-eligible workers, including those who are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Please call **585-900-1004** to schedule an appointment. All appointments will be held on the 4th floor of the Bausch & Lomb Public Library Building, Monday thru Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. All CASH programs are free and delivered by a team of highly-trained volunteers.