

# April, 2020 District Manager's Report

## Agency Reports:

**Mayor's Office Reported:** Mayor Bill de Blasio and Speaker Corey Johnson recently announced that the City will provide \$25 million in emergency funding to emergency food providers across New York City. This funding is being allocated as part of a new, ongoing partnership between the de Blasio Administration and the City Council to help emergency food providers deal with the challenges of COVID-19 pandemic.

The City's Food Czar team, overseen by Commissioner Kathryn Garcia, has been doing direct outreach to pantries to understand their needs, and this funding will cover critical immediate operating expenses such as increased food costs, additional staffing, new safety supplies, and the ability to deliver food items directly to seniors who are now homebound. More than 800 organizations citywide, including pantries, mobile pantries, soup kitchens and non-profit organizations, may be eligible to receive emergency funding for these critical operating expenses. The Food Czar team, in partnership with New York City Human Resources Administration/Department of Social Services, will begin outreach to let food pantries know how to access these newly available emergency funds.

The City also has several emergency food programs underway, including DOE Grab-and-go meals at over 400 sites across the city that are open to all, senior meal deliveries, and deliveries to vulnerable populations in need through [nyc.gov/GetFood](http://nyc.gov/GetFood). The additional funding for emergency food providers will ensure these vital organizations have the funding they need to stay open throughout this crisis and feed an unprecedented number of New Yorkers in need.

**DSNY Reported:** The New York City Department of Sanitation ("DSNY") previously announced that it would hold a public hearing, on April 16, 2020, at 9:30 A.M., on a proposed rule to require certain buildings to submit a building waste management plan. In light of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, DSNY has determined, that the hearing must be postponed indefinitely. Notice of a revised hearing date will be announced at a future time.

## Department of Education (DOE) Reported:

1. **Remote learning is extended to the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year**
  - a. On April 11, Mayor de Blasio and Chancellor Carranza announced that New York City public school buildings will not reopen during the 2019-20 school year. Teachers and students will finish the school year in remote learning. We will continue to operate our 400+ school-based Meal Hubs, which serve three free meals a day to any New Yorker who needs them, and we will continue to ensure child care for the children of essential workers.
2. **\$221 million DOE budget cut for fiscal year 2021**
  - a. During this unprecedented crisis, NYC is facing incredible fiscal hardship. Mayor de Blasio announced a \$221 million budget cut to the DOE, effective in fiscal year 2021 (FY21). Reductions identified this week:
    - i. \$100M fair student funding reduction for FY21

- ii. \$67M professional development reduction: mandated programs protected, eliminate redundancy, more efficient training sessions
  - iii. \$49M equity and excellence reduction: reduction in funding of programs such as Summer in the City, Single Shepherd, College Access for All
  - iv. \$43M delay in 3K expansion to districts 1, 12, 14, and 29 in FY21
  - v. \$5M SONYC afterschool rightsizing
3. **June 2020 regents exams are cancelled** ([click here for the full NYSED's memo](#))
4. **Middle school offers are available**
- a. Middle school offers were released on April 6, through [MySchools account](#), mail, calling 311, or emailing a Family Welcome Center.
  - b. Middle school waitlists will open the week of April 13. This gives families who don't have MySchools accounts time to learn their offers before waitlists open.
  - c. 71,079 fifth-grade students received a middle school offer. 65,050 of those students submitted an application, an increase from about 64,174 in 2019.
  - d. 87% who submitted an application received an offer to one of their top three choices, compared to 83% in 2019.
  - e. 64% who submitted an application received an offer to their first choice, compared to 59% in 2019.
5. **Family Welcome Centers**
- a. Family Welcome Center (FWC) buildings are closed, but staff are working remotely. FWC staff can assist with questions about enrollment, school offers, and waitlists. Contact your FWC at:
    - i. Bronx: [bronxfwc@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:bronxfwc@schools.nyc.gov)
    - ii. Brooklyn: [brooklynfwc@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:brooklynfwc@schools.nyc.gov)
    - iii. Manhattan: [manhattanfwc@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:manhattanfwc@schools.nyc.gov)
    - iv. Queens: [queensfwc@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:queensfwc@schools.nyc.gov)
    - v. Staten Island: [statenislandfwc@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:statenislandfwc@schools.nyc.gov)
    - vi. In your email, please include: (1) your child's first name, last name, and date of birth (2) If you need support in another language (3) If you (the child's parent/guardian) are deaf or hard-of-hearing
6. **Remote learning resources**
- a. Your school will communicate with you about their remote learning platform. NYCDOE has created student accounts for every student. The account gives you access to Google Classroom and Microsoft Office 365.
  - b. [Technical support for Google Classroom, Microsoft Teams, and DOE student accounts](#) If you are still unable to access your student account, contact your school's parent coordinator.
  - c. [Supplementary learning resources and activities](#) (by grade level and subject)
  - d. [Resources for multilingual learners](#)
    - i. Every school is creating a remote learning plan as an addendum to their Language Allocation Policy to ensure that English

language learners (ELLs) receive appropriate home language support. These services will be provided by an appropriately certified teacher.

- ii. Planning is underway to ensure that ELLs without electronic devices receive translated print resources.
  - e. [Resources for special education](#) (including assistive technology, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech therapy supports)
    - i. Families of students with IEPs were presented with a Special Education Remote Learning Plan, developed by the student's special education teacher.
    - ii. IEP meetings will be conducted over the phone. Parents can make a referral by emailing their principal, [specialeducation@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:specialeducation@schools.nyc.gov), or by calling 311. Assessments may be conducted remotely.
    - iii. Schools will be contacting families of students needing assistive technology to make those arrangements.
    - iv. Related services will be provided via teletherapy, or video-conferencing where clinically appropriate. Providers and schools will contact families to discuss the service plan for each student.
  - f. [Resources for mental, socio-emotional health](#)
    - i. Sanford Harmony is offering free access to [Harmony at Home](#), an online toolkit that provides a variety of lessons, activities, and resources to help caregivers navigate the social and emotional needs of children during this difficult time.
    - ii. You have free access to confidential, mental health information through NYC Well's hotline. NYC Well is staffed by trained social workers, 24 hours a day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year, and interpretation services are offered for 200+ languages. To access the services, families, can text "WELL" to 65173, or call 1-888-692-9355.
  - g. [Resources for physical activity](#)
7. **iPad distribution**
  - a. Schools have distributed approximately 175,000 electronic devices to students from school inventories. In addition, we are lending 300,000 internet-enabled iPads to students. As of April 6, we have distributed 40,000 iPads.
  - b. **To receive a device, complete BOTH:**
    - i. [Remote learning device request form](#)
    - ii. [Terms of use form](#)
  - c. The first shipment of 25,000 iPads has been distributed to student in temporary housing. For the week of April 6, we are delivering iPads to high school students, focusing on multilingual learners, students with disabilities, and students in public housing. iPads will be distributed on a rolling basis with new shipments arriving each week. Students not in the above groups will be eligible to receive iPads, after deliveries have been made to the above groups.

- d. The week of March 29, we mailed 10-days' worth of lessons in different subjects ([online copy here](#)) to students in grades Pre-K-5 who submitted a remote learning device request form.
8. **Student attendance**
    - a. Students will not be penalized for absences. We have removed attendance as a factor for admissions. Schools will be recording attendance (required by law). Principals are working with teachers to determine the best way to capture attendance in a fair and meaningful way.
  9. **Free, one-on-one, online tutoring**
    - a. The [New York Public Library](#) offers free, one-on-one, online tutoring from 2 PM to 11 PM daily. Tutors are available in English and Spanish, from early elementary through high school, in core subject areas. Video content and other resources are also available 24 hours a day.
    - b. You will need a New York Library card to access this service, apply [here](#).
  10. **Meal hubs ([meal hub locator](#) or text “FOOD” or “COMIDA” to 877-877)**
    - a. All New Yorkers (children, families, singles, etc.) have access to 3 meals a day through our grab-and-go meal hubs. All 3 meals can be picked up at the same time, and caregivers can pick up meals on behalf of their children.
    - b. Meal hubs are open Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM to 1:30 PM. No registration, ID or documentation required.

#### **Free Online Tutoring for Students:**

Through the New York Public Library, students can receive one-on-one free online homework help from one-on-one tutors, daily from 2–11 PM. Tutors are available in English and Spanish, from early elementary through high school grades, in core subject areas. Video content and other resources are also available 24 hours a day. Families will need a New York Library card to access this service, and can apply for a card <https://www.nypl.org/books-music-movies/ebookcentral/simplye>.

#### **NYCHA**

Seasonal Jobs at NYCHA: NYCHA is currently hiring temporary workers to assist with maintenance at our properties throughout the city. The job will last as needed throughout the spring season at a rate of \$15/hour. For more info and to apply, your constituents who are NYCHA residents can contact their local NYCHA Property Management Office: [https://twitter.com/NYCHA/status/1244685960564129792?mc\\_cid=b18a7c2c1b&mc\\_eid=50539dc993](https://twitter.com/NYCHA/status/1244685960564129792?mc_cid=b18a7c2c1b&mc_eid=50539dc993)

**NYC Department of Youth and Community Development Reported:** Unfortunately, with the uncertainty over how COVID-19 will continue to affect social distancing guidelines, worksite availability, and provider and site staffing as we head into late spring and summer will make it difficult to ensure that SYEP can be operated safely and efficiently. Therefore, effective IMMEDIATELY SYEP has been suspended for Summer 2020.

**Board of Elections Reported:** All New Yorkers will be allowed to cast absentee ballots in the June 23 primary elections due to the [coronavirus crisis](#), Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced Wednesday. Cuomo said he would issue an executive order allowing any voter to obtain and cast an absentee ballot in the upcoming primary contests without meeting the legal requirements. Acceptable excuses include “temporary or permanent illness or disability,” being the “primary care giver” of someone who’s sick or disabled, or being locked up in jail while facing indictment or serving time for a violation or misdemeanor conviction.

**HRA Reported:** All in-person appointments have been cancelled. NO NEGATIVE CASE ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN. The following listed below can be done without coming to an HRA Center. Go online to [nyc.gov/accesshra](http://nyc.gov/accesshra), or download the ACCESS HRA mobile app, and log in or create an account.

**Apply for and recertify SNAP benefits online.**

- › Complete your SNAP periodic report online;
- › Change or close your SNAP case online;
- › Take photos of requested documents with your phone and upload them;
- › After you apply and submit documents, you can call to complete your interview. Call 718-SNAP-NOW (718-762-7669), anytime between 8:30 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday. SNAP
- › You can now submit an application for Cash Assistance on ACCESS HRA. HRA will call you for a phone interview;
- › Submit a recertification application for Cash Assistance. HRA will call you for a phone interview;
- › Take photos of requested documents with your phone and upload them;
- › Submit an application for a special grant such as Emergency Rental Assistance. Cash Assistance;
- › Check your application status;
- › Read e-notices online, or sign up to go paperless;
- › View the list of documents HRA has requested under ‘Required Documents’ and those already received under ‘Case Record’;
- › View your benefit payments;
- › Update your contact information;
- › Sign up for text alerts for upcoming appointments, and for information regarding when your recertification is due;

**Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Reported:** Access to Food - All New Yorkers can access the food they need. Go to [nyc.gov/GetFood](http://nyc.gov/GetFood) for resources:

- Map of every grab-and-go site
- Map of every food pantry

- Sign up for SNAP benefits
- Sign up for food delivery assistance

### **Meal Hubs**

- All New Yorkers may pick up 3 free meals a day at more than 400 Meal Hubs open Monday through Friday across all of NYC.
  - Children and families can pick up meals from 7:30AM to 11:30AM.
  - Adults can pick up meals from 11:30AM to 1:30PM.
- Meal hubs do not require registration, identification, or documentation.
  - No one will be turned away.
  - All 3 meals can be picked up at the same time, and caregivers can pick up meals on behalf of their children.
  - No dining space is available, so meals must be eaten outside of meal hubs.
  - Vegetarian and halal options are available at all sites.
- To find a meal hub location near you: Go to [schools.nyc.gov](https://schools.nyc.gov). Text "FOOD" or "COMIDA" to 877-877.
- [View this update in multiple languages](#)

### **NYC Food Delivery Assistance**

- [NYC Food Delivery Assistance Resources](#)
- If you cannot leave your home to get food, do not have anyone who can bring you food, and you are not able to use private delivery options, you may be eligible to get meals delivered directly to your home.
- Go to [NYC.gov/GetFood](https://nyc.gov/GetFood) or call 311 and say "Get Food" for information.

### **Resources for Businesses and Nonprofits**

#### **Federal:**

- **Relief for Businesses and Nonprofits:** the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) [Paycheck Protection Program](#)
- The Paycheck Protection Program offers two-year loans at 1% interest that you may not have to pay back if the money is used for payroll costs, interest on mortgages, rent, and utility payments
- Loan is designed for small businesses to keep their workers on the payroll
- Businesses and nonprofits with 500 or fewer employees are eligible to apply

- [View/share this guidance in multiple languages](#)
- [View an FAQ on the Paycheck Protection Program in multiple languages](#)

**IMPORTANT LINKS:**

- See resources at <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/businesses/businesses-and-nonprofits.page>;
- Jobs: Temporary opportunities available: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/sbs/careers/find-a-job.page>

Respectively Submitted by,

Eutha Prince  
District Manager  
4/16/20