

District Manager's Report July/August 2024

Mayor's Office Reported: Mayor Eric Adams and New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) Commissioner Keith Howard announced \$2 million in expanded programming and services to continue to keep young people safe in the final weeks of summer. The expanded programs and services will be invested in historically underserved neighborhoods, including the six priority New York City Police Department (NYPD) precincts identified in "[A Blueprint for Community Safety](#)," a forward-thinking roadmap with upstream solutions to address gun violence throughout the five boroughs.

OFFICE TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE REPORTED (OTDA): As a reminder, the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2023-24 New York State Budget established a new disregard on all earned income that a CA participant gets from participation in a qualified work activity or training program, provided the individual's overall income does not exceed 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for their household size. This disregard does not apply to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

The SFY 2023-24 State Budget will also disregard all earned income of a CA participant following a new job for a maximum of six consecutive months, once per lifetime, provided that the individual's overall income does not exceed 200% of the FPL for their household size. Following the six-month period, regular budgeting of income for purposes of CA eligibility would apply. This disregard does not apply to SNAP benefits.

(OTDA) has begun issuing Summer EBT benefits to eligible school-aged children.

As a reminder, Summer EBT is a new program to provide families with eligible school-aged children with food benefits to help cover the cost of groceries when school is out of session. Families with eligible children will receive \$120 in Summer EBT food benefits per child in 2024. Most eligible children will receive their Summer EBT food benefits automatically; however, some families may need to apply.

All benefits are issued by NYS OTDA. More information can be found on the NYS OTDA Summer EBT website [here](#).

The Summer EBT Helpline (1-833-452-0096) is also available for any general questions, case questions, and to opt-out of the Summer EBT program in 2024. The Helpline can also answer any questions about applications or change of address for Summer EBT card issuance.

Department of Education (DOE) Reported: NYC Public Schools offers free breakfast and lunch to anyone 18 years or younger from June 27, 2024 to August 30, 2024. Eligible individuals can get these meals at specific places like select NYC Public Schools, community pool centers, parks, and libraries. You do not need to sign up or show ID.

- Breakfast Service Time: 8am – 9:15am
- Lunch Service Time: 11am – 1:15pm
- Text: NYCFood to 304-304
- Call 311
- Find a Free Breakfast & Lunch location near you at: <https://www.opt-osfns.org/schoolfoodny/meals/default.aspx>

Con Edison Reported: Con Edison is urging customers to stay safe amidst summer’s hottest temperatures so far, as their crews stand ready to respond to service problems that may arise.

If an outage does occur, you can report it or check restoration status at www.coned.com/reportoutage, or with Con Edison’s app.

Department of Sanitation (DSNY) Reported: Starting on November 12th, 2024, all properties with 1-9 residential units must use bins, 55 gallons or less, with secure lids.

By June 2026, all properties with 1-9 residential units will be required to use the official NYC Bins. You can purchase your official NYC Bin at nyc.gov/usebins.

DSNY is proposing to amend its rule to establish fees for the disposal of yard waste and organic waste at DSNY owned and operated compost facilities.

When and where is the hearing? DSNY will hold a public hearing on the proposed rule. The public hearing will take place via Microsoft Teams at 10:00 AM on September 4, 2024, using the following link:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetupjoin/19%3ameeting_ODZlZmFiOGQtZDczMS00YzEyLTlmMTQqZTI2NjlmNGQ0ZWVh%40threa d.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2232f56fc7-5f81-4e22-a95b15da66513bef%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%221d3255a2-4904-4aaa-899e3f943348182b%22%7d Meeting ID: 298 548 423 788 Passcode: ubWy4T Dial in by phone +1 646-893-7101,,94722531# United States, New York City

(DSNY) recently announced that with curbside composting coming to the Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island beginning October 6, residents of those boroughs can now request a FREE brown bin for their compostable material at nyc.gov/curbsidecomposting. Putting compostable material in a separate, secure bin is a key part of the City’s War on Rats.

This program is simple to use: just put anything from your kitchen or anything from your garden out in your composting bin on your recycling day, right next to the metal, glass, plastic, and paper recycling you already set out.

Over the decade prior to the Adams administration, composting programs in New York City had been beset by stops and starts and complicated rules. That changed beginning in Fall 2022, when an easy-to-use, universal curbside composting program began serving every address in Queens.

That program – no sign-ups, no special days, no limited hours – is now operating in approximately half the City, Brooklyn and Queens, and [comes to the remaining three boroughs the week of October 6, after which it will be permanent and citywide.](#)

Many residents of these boroughs already have a composting bin, and unlike in past programs, they may also use their own bin provided it is 55 gallons or less and has a secure lid; however, bin orders are open now at nyc.gov/curbsidecomposting. Orders will remain open until October 28, but must be placed this month to guarantee delivery before the start of service.

Brooklyn and Queens residents were given the opportunity to order free bins before service began in their boroughs. That said, for the first time, they can now purchase additional or replacement bins if needed at www.bins.nyc, the same website where the [Official NYC Bin for trash is sold.](#) As a reminder, under the law, separation of compostable material is mandatory after service begins in each borough, with DSNY authorized to write summonses beginning in the Spring of 2025.

In addition to the largest, easiest curbside composting program ever, New York City is now home to approximately 400 Smart Composting Bins, 24-hour drop-off sites where New Yorkers can bring anything from their kitchen and anything from their garden to be put to beneficial reuse. And, earlier this year, Mayor Adams fulfilled a campaign promise by [bringing DSNY collection of compostable material to every single NYC public school.](#)

DSS New Pilot Restaurant Meals Program (RMP) Reported: Following legislation signed by Governor Hochul, the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance has established a Restaurant Meals Program (RMP). The RMP allows certain households, who may not have access to what they need to properly store and prepare food or who may not be able to prepare meals themselves, to use their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to purchase prepared meals at participating restaurants at a discounted rate. When using SNAP benefits, these households will receive a 10% discount on the cost of their meal. Participating household will be responsible for covering the entire, discounted cost of their meals, when purchasing prepared meals participating restaurants.

The pilot, which began in Monroe County in December 2023, is now expanding to New York City. Currently, there are three participating restaurants in NYC. Additional restaurants are expected to be added. Those eligible for RMP can use their SNAP benefit at any participating restaurant.

Restaurant Participation

Through targeted outreach, a selection of restaurants expressed interest and applied for approval to become an authorized SNAP retailer and participate in the RMP. Not all NYC boroughs have participating restaurants at this time, but more will continue to be on boarded as the program grows.

An updated list of participating restaurants can be found [here](#). As new restaurants are on boarded, they will be added to the website.

Eligibility

To be eligible to purchase prepared meals at restaurants participating in the RMP, all members of the SNAP household must be either:

- elderly (age 60 or older);
- have a disability as defined for SNAP (receives disability benefits from a government agency because of a disability considered permanent);
- experiencing homelessness (including those residing in shelter);
- a spouse of a SNAP recipient who is eligible for the RMP.

There is no separate application process for SNAP households to participate in the RMP. RMP eligibility is established systemically by HRA/DSS by the presence of certain attributes on the household's SNAP case, such as age of all household members, the Aged/Disabled indicator, the Shelter Type code, and the Relationship indicator.

SNAP household that are eligible to participate in the RMP, have their benefit case automatically updated with an RMP indicator. This means that eligible households may purchase food/meals at participating restaurants without having to make any changes or updates to their cards.

Households identified as RMP eligible will receive notices from HRA, letting them know that their household may participate in the RMP. Conversely, when a household who previously participated in the RMP no longer meets the criteria to participate due to a change in circumstances, a notice will be issued to explain that the household is no longer eligible for the RMP.

If a household meets the criteria to participate in the RMP and attempts to purchase a prepared meal but does not have sufficient funds to cover the entire, discounted cost of their meal, the household will be responsible for covering any remaining balance with funds other than SNAP benefits.

If a household does not meet the criteria to participate in the RMP and attempts to use their SNAP benefits to purchase a prepared meal at a participating restaurant, the transaction will be declined, the household will not be eligible for the RMP discounted rate and will be responsible for covering the full cost of their meal with funds other than SNAP benefits.

For more information on the Restaurant Meal Program, click [here](#).

For restaurant owners who would like to learn more, click [here](#). Restaurant owners that are interested in enrolling into the program should contact NYSRMP@otda.ny.gov.

New York City Emergency Management (NYCEM) Reported: Recently announced the launch of a groundbreaking emergency preparedness campaign, marked by the introduction of agency's first-ever citywide multilingual mailer. This initiative, part of a three-year, \$6 million program funded by federal Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery funds, aims to empower every New Yorker with the knowledge and tools needed to prepare for emergencies and stay informed through the Notify NYC alert system.

This multi-page mailer, available in 13 languages, reaches every residential address across the five boroughs. It provides information on how to sign up for Notify NYC, the city's official source for emergency alerts. This campaign specifically targets non-English speaking New Yorkers who may not be aware of the Notify NYC service that can help them remain safe from threats such as coastal flooding, flash floods from rainfall, and other hazards like heat and air quality, as recently experienced with the 2023 Canadian wildfires. The campaign seeks to build a culture of preparedness by ensuring all residents, regardless of language or background, have access to vital information that can help them make informed decisions and act during emergencies. Over the next two years, HUD's Disaster Recovery Community Development Block Grant will continue to fund initiatives that enhance access to Notify NYC for all New Yorkers.

NYCEM Reported: Extreme heat is a serious threat to New Yorkers. With rising temperatures, NYCEM is reminding New Yorkers of the NYC of the NYC Cooling Centers that exist. Visit **Cool Options NYC** to find a cooling center near you. Keep up to date with emergency alerts at **NotifyNYC** on Facebook.

MTA Reported: The Announcement of huge, and exciting news of the MTA and New York City Public Schools announcing the start (this school year) for eligible students to be the first to receive new Student OMNY Cards with expanded benefits.

Student OMNY Cards are a huge improvement over old Student MetroCards. With the new Student OMNY Cards, all eligible students can tap to receive:

- Four free rides every day
- All day (not just certain hours)
- Every day of the year (not just school days)
- Even weekends, and over the summer
- One card for the entire School year

Students can start tapping on September 5th and use their card for the entire School year. Over the years, the MTA has seen a dramatic decline in students using their transit passes – a 40% decrease from 113 million swipes in 2008 to 65 million in 2022. With these new benefits, students have every reason to tap with Every tap helping the MTA bring better service to neighborhoods.

Announcements/Events:

SAVE THE DATE: Jobs and Career Fair - 2024 will be held on:

Date: Wednesday, August 14th
Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Place: City College of New York (Shepard Hall)
160 Convent Ave. @139th Street.
40+ Companies & Government Agencies will be hiring!

Did you Know:

All New York City Children, 18 years and younger, can receive free summer meals through the City's Summer Meals program. To find an open public school, pool, or park near you, call 311 or text "NYCMeals" to 304-3;

The Department of Transportation and the FDNY partnered together to improve lithium-ion battery safety with a [trade-in program, new public charging rules, and an ad campaign](#);

NYC Public Schools and the MTA announced that, starting this upcoming school year, [student riders will be given OMNY cards instead of Metrocards](#) — with an additional ride every day and access to use without restricted hours;

Mayor's Office launched a new kind of school — [the Rat Academy](#)! Getting rid of rats is a citywide effort, and they're enlisting New Yorkers, too;

NYC Jobs – Get Free Career Training and help finding a Job in Government or the Private Sector;

NYC988 – NYC 988 is your connections to FREE, Confidential Crisis Counseling, Mental Health and Substance Use Support, Information and Referrals. You can reach the toll-free Help Line 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by phone, text and online chat;

Buildings After Hours – Free in-person information session with DOB staff every first and third Tuesday or the month from 4pm to 7pm at your local Borough Office.

Respectfully Submitted by,



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District Manager
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