

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

MARCH, 2024

Department of Sanitation (DSNY) Reported: As part of their commitment to keeping our streets clean, the NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY) is implementing new rules to reduce the number of black bags that line city streets. DSNY began the process in April 2023, when they changed the waste setout times for residents and businesses — reducing the time trash, recycling, and curbside composting will sit on sidewalks.

Starting March 1, 2024, ALL businesses of any size MUST set out waste in a bin with a secure lid. This applies to ALL businesses that set out waste on the curb.

Please Join a virtual info session to learn more about Commercial Containerization

- **Friday, March 15 at 10:00 AM (Spanish)** [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#)
- **Tuesday, March 19 at 3:00 PM (Mandarin/Cantonese)** [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#)
- **Monday, March 25 at 5:00 PM** [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#)

Social Security Administration (SSA) Reported: March is Women's History Month, an annual opportunity to celebrate the contributions of women throughout history and in our daily lives. The Social Security Administration is proud to join the rest of the nation in recognizing the significant accomplishments of women.

This month is an ideal opportunity to encourage the women in your life to plan for retirement. Even in 2024, women continue to face unique economic challenges. Women are more likely to earn less than men and to work part time. Because women tend to live more years in retirement, they're more likely to exhaust their other sources of income and rely more heavily on Social Security, especially in their later years.

One of the best ways women can prepare for their financial future is to open a personal [my Social Security](#) account and review their Social Security *Statement*. It shows estimates of their future retirement benefits at various ages.

During Women's History Month, please encourage your clients to learn more about Social Security's importance to women. Visit our [Social Security for Women](#) webpage, where you'll find our:

- [What Every Woman Should Know](#) publication.
- [Social Security is Important to Women](#) infographic.

[5 Things Every Woman Should Know About Social Security](#)

Con Edison Reported: As part of ConEd’s ongoing commitment to usher in New York’s clean energy transition, is granting awards totaling more than \$4 million to four New York nonprofit organizations. These organizations will train more than 1,200 participants from underserved communities for careers in clean energy and technology fields over the next three years.

The four nonprofit organizations include: [Green City Force](#), [LaGuardia Community College](#), [Public Housing Community Fund](#), and [RETI Center](#).

These awards reflect Con Edison’s charitable grant efforts to invest in nonprofits that share the company’s vision to combat the effects of climate change, advance social justice, and create green jobs in the communities it serves.

Office of Child Support Services (OCSS) Reported: Pay It Off will be offered from **March 1-15** this year. This time-limited program could help noncustodial parents lower the amount of permanently assigned child support debt they owe to the New York City Department of Social Services (NYC DSS) twice as fast. If they sign up for the Arrears Credit Program (ACP) while participating in Pay It Off, they can receive a sign-up bonus of up to \$2,500. Furthermore, if noncustodial parents pay the principle of a money judgement, all interest associated with the money judgment will be erased! More than 4,000 noncustodial parents have participated in a past Pay It Off (PIO) program. The average debt reduction was \$4,822 per case.

Learn more [here](#). Please email dcse.cseweb@dfa.state.ny.us with any questions you may have.

HRA Reported: Eligibility for replacement of SNAP and/or Cash Assistance benefits remains the same as initially described [here](#). However, timeframes in which a household can submit an application for replacement of stolen benefits are being extended as follows:

- Applications for SNAP benefits stolen between October 1, 2022, and August 20, 2023, and Cash Assistance benefits stolen between January 1, 2022, and August 20, 2023 (retroactive claims) can now be submitted **through April 1, 2024**. *The original retroactive claim application deadline was extended from October 31, 2023, to December 31, 2023, and has now been extended to April 1, 2024.*
- All other applications must be submitted within 30 days from the date the household discovered the theft.

Note: Households whose SNAP benefits were stolen between October 1, 2022, and August 20, 2023, or TA cash benefits stolen between January 1, 2022, and August 20, 2023, who do not apply before April 1, 2024, still have the option to apply for replacement as long as the application is submitted within 30 days from the date the household discovered the theft.

This updated application deadline is effective retroactively to January 1, 2024. Applications for retroactive claim reimbursement submitted on or after the previous deadline will be considered against this new deadline. Any retroactive claims denied for untimely filing during this time will be reconsidered.

New Common Benefit Identification Card (CBIC)/ Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) Card Lock Feature Households will now have the ability to lock their EBT card, which prevents their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance (TA) cash benefits, or Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) benefits issued as cash to a household, from being accessed. Cardholders must then unlock the locked card to make a purchase using their SNAP or cash benefits. This new feature is intended to be used as a tool to help prevent theft of benefits through skimming or other fraudulent methods. Locking and unlocking the EBT card has no impact on Medicaid or other benefits issuances, including restricted payments directly to a landlord, utility, or other vendor. The card lock feature will roll out in multiple phases over the course of the next three months as described below.

The locking feature cannot prevent card information from being skimmed if a household's card is used on a compromised device. However, if a card remains locked, remote fraudulent use of stolen information would be greatly restricted, limiting vulnerability to theft only at the time during which a household's card is unlocked for purchasing.

While card locking cannot completely prevent theft of information via skimming devices or other fraudulent methods, households whose EBT cards remain locked when not in use have a significantly lower chance of having their benefits stolen.

Implementation

Phase 1: As of February 20, 2024, households will have the ability to lock and unlock their cards via the *ConnectEBT* mobile application (available on the: [Google Play Store](#) and [Apple App Store](#)). Cardholders must have a *ConnectEBT* account. If they have not already created an account, they can set one up using the mobile app. The cardholder must have activated their EBT card to access the lock/unlock feature. On the *ConnectEBT* mobile app home screen, a radio button will allow the cardholder to lock or unlock the card with one click. During this initial phase of the card lock rollout, the only option available to households will be to completely lock the card, preventing purchases, balance inquiries and most other transactions until the card is unlocked. Cardholders will receive an email immediately upon locking or unlocking their card, confirming the action they took.

125TH BID Reported: The Center for Smart Streetscapes (CS3) launched the inaugural Community Partners in Residence (CPR) program in November 2023. This innovative program is developing a new relationship between researchers at Columbia University, Rutgers University, Lehman College, and the University of Florida with civic and business leaders in the Harlem community. These CPR workshops have created an opportunity for Harlem residents to learn about the latest technological innovations from CS3 researchers while their views on how these technological advances can benefit the community are solicited.

[My Streetscape Summer Research Institute](#) designed for high school students who wish to sharpen their interests in engineering and the social sciences, regardless of their level of experience or knowledge.

CS3 Research Experience for Teachers (RET) Program for STEM teachers designed for STEM teachers to gain firsthand experience in cutting-edge projects related to smart streetscapes and urban technology.

Participants of both programs work closely with CS3 researchers from Columbia University and Lehman College, gaining firsthand experience in cutting-edge projects related to smart streetscapes and urban technology, with an emphasis on community impact driven research.

DID YOU KNOW??

West Harlem Development Corporation (WHDC) is offering Columbia University scholarships for the 2024 Little Lions Summer Camp and for the Riverside Park Conservancy 2024 Summer Multi Sport Camp Lottery. Each camp opportunity is for three free weeks and cannot be combined.

EMPLOYMENT/VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: Let's Green NYC is a strategic initiative to engage a record number of volunteers in City parks through the end of 2024 <https://www.nycgovparks.org/opportunities/volunteer>. **Request an Event for Your Group** Whether you're part of a community group, a non-profit organization, or a corporate volunteer group, we'd love to make sure your next volunteer event takes place in a park! Visit our [Request a Volunteer Event](#) page to get involved.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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District Manager
03/14/24