



The Advance Warning System (AWS) alerts organizations that work with people with disabilities or access and functional needs to various types of hazards and emergencies in New York City. Please share the important information below with your clients and other agencies or individuals to empower them to make informed decisions.

Although we're currently experiencing mild weather here in the City, winter is quickly approaching, and with it, the possibility of winter weather emergencies. New York City Emergency Management would like to remind our Advance Warning System partners to prepare staff and clients for the season ahead. During periods of very cold and inclement weather, people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs are at a greater risk. [This document](#) assists service providers in working with their clients who could be at risk during extreme winter weather events. Seniors, infants, people with chronic cardiovascular or lung conditions, people using alcohol or drugs and people with cognitive impairments such as from dementia, serious mental illness or developmental disability are at increased risk.

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is available to help people with low-income pay the cost of heating their homes. HEAP is funded by the federal government and is overseen by the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance.

The 2017-18 Regular HEAP benefit opened November 13, 2017. Eligibility and benefits are based on income, household size, the primary heating source, and the presence of a household member who is under age 6, age 60 or older, or permanently disabled.

Households may also be eligible for an emergency benefit if they are in danger of running out of heating fuel or having their utility service shut off. **The 2017-18 Emergency HEAP benefit opens January 2, 2018.** Emergency HEAP benefits and eligibility are based on income, available resources, and the type of emergency. Households facing an energy emergency should call their local [Department of Social Services Local District Contact](#) for assistance.

[For more information on eligibility and applying for HEAP benefits click here.](#)

Winter Preparation Tips:

https://advancewarningsystemnyc.org/sites/default/files/WINTER%20PREPARATION%20TIPS%202017_0.pdf

Stay safe this winter!

The Advance Warning System (AWS) alerts organizations that work with people with disabilities or access and functional needs to various types of hazards and emergencies in New York City. Participating organizations receive public preparedness and emergency information that they can relay to their clients and other similar agencies. If you work for an organization that serves people with disabilities or access and functional needs you can subscribe for AWS Alerts at the following link: <https://advancewarningsystemnyc.org/>.