



Monday, May 17, 2021

BEAT THE HEAT: NYC REMINDS NEW YORKERS TO APPLY FOR A FREE AIR CONDITIONER

NEW YORK— The City’s Department of Social Services-Human Resources Administration (DSS-HRA) and the Health Department today remind New Yorkers to apply for cooling assistance through the [New York State Home Energy Assistance Program \(HEAP\)](#), which provides eligible New Yorkers with free air conditioners, including installation costs.

“As the summer months approach, the Department of Social Services-Human Resources Administration and the City of New York are committed to providing our most vulnerable residents with the resources and services they need to stay cool, safe, and healthy,” said **DSS-HRA Administrator Gary Jenkins**. “New Yorkers in need are often disproportionately affected by extreme weather-related events, and as we re-open our City with a focus on equity and inclusion, we urge all eligible individuals with a health condition to apply for this program to have a safe respite from the warmer weather ahead.”

“In New York City, most heat-stroke deaths happen in homes without air conditioning,” said **Health Commissioner Dr. Dave A. Chokshi**. “Although our city is reopening, places to seek relief from the heat may remain limited this summer as we continue to work together to prevent COVID-19 transmission. We urge New Yorkers with health conditions to apply for an air conditioner so they can stay cool at home. Using an air conditioner for even a few hours a day can be a lifesaver.”

“With climate change ushering in higher temperatures, preventing heat-related illness is more important than ever before. This annual program provides free air conditioning units to low-income New Yorkers with health-related needs,” said **Jainey Bavishi, Director of the Mayor’s Office of Climate Resiliency**. “Summer temperatures are just around the corner, so we encourage qualified New Yorkers to apply as soon as possible.”

The Health Department issued a [health alert](#) today for health care providers on heat-related illness.

New Yorkers who are older or who have heart, kidney or lung disease or other health conditions, serious mental illness, or struggle with substance abuse are at increased risk of heat-related illness. The best way to prevent heat-related health impacts is to use air conditioning at home.

To qualify for the cooling assistance program, households must meet certain income-level requirements, receive public benefits (such as SNAP or Code A SSI), have received a HEAP benefit during the current HEAP program year, or have a household member with a medical

condition that is exacerbated by the heat. In addition, New York State extended eligibility last year and through this summer to include people living in public housing or who receive housing benefits or subsidies, and who also meet certain health qualifications.

The New York State HEAP cooling assistance program has made \$15 million available, expanding this benefit to even more New Yorkers. The program opened May 3, 2021, and applications will be accepted through August 31, 2021, or until allocated funds are depleted. New Yorkers who would like to apply can call 311 or the HEAP Conference Line at 212-331-3126 to ask for a HEAP cooling assistance application. The application can also be downloaded at: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/hra/help/energy-assistance.page>.

Mail completed applications to:

Home Energy Assistance Program/HEAP
P.O. Box 1401
Church Street Station
New York, NY 10008

Applications can also be submitted in person at any of the eight locations listed on [ACCESS NYC](#). More information on eligibility and what is needed to apply is available at: <https://access.nyc.gov/programs/cooling-assistance-benefit/>.

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