

**\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

**Helping Homeowners Stay in their Homes:  
City Spreading the Word about Urgent March 15 Homeowner Tax Exemption Deadline  
and Other Critical Homeowner Resources**

*Direct outreach for City programs that help homeowners save money and keep their homes, including renting to voucher holders, property tax exemption, and energy assistance.*

**New York, NY - March 12, 2024** - The Mayor's Public Engagement Unit (PEU), alongside their partners at the NYC Human Resources Administration (HRA) and Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), conducted a community canvass and press event focused on resources available to NYC homeowners. This outreach campaign was designed to help raise awareness about the March 15th deadline to apply for Homeowner Tax Exemptions (HTE). These exemptions are available to income-eligible homeowners over age 65 or with a disability.

As part of the outreach in Southeast Queens, PEU specialists also provided information about the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), which can provide heating or cooling equipment repairs and replacements to eligible homeowners.

In addition to helping homeowners apply for these financial benefits, PEU staff were also on hand to help homeowners with vacant rental units navigate the process of renting to voucher recipients. By renting to voucher holders, homeowners can access government-backed rental income. More information about these resources for homeowners can be found at [nyc.gov/PEU](https://nyc.gov/PEU).

“The Public Engagement Unit is focused on connecting eligible homeowners with resources to help keep them in their homes,” said **Adrienne Lever, Executive Director of the Public Engagement Unit**. “With the March 15th deadline quickly approaching, we want to be sure that all eligible New Yorkers know about homeowner tax exemptions. Other programs may also be available to you as well, so if you need help, don't delay. PEU is committed to supporting all New Yorkers—tenants and homeowners.”

“Eligible homeowners have until March 15 to apply for property tax exemptions that can lower their annual tax bill,” said **Preston Niblack, Commissioner of the Department of Finance**. “Our team is committed to helping New Yorkers access these valuable benefits and we will continue working with our partners to ensure that everyone who is eligible can take advantage of these important exemptions.”

“Protecting the health and safety of vulnerable New Yorkers, especially during the colder winter months, is our top priority, and we are proud to partner with the Mayor’s Public Engagement Unit to spread awareness about critical city resources as we work to make sure we are reaching every New Yorker in need,” said **Rebecca Chew, Chief Program Officer of the Human Resources Administration**. “More than one million New Yorkers receive critical heating assistance through DSS-HRA’s Home Energy Assistance Program every year. With rising costs of living and growing income inequality in NYC, we are committed to ensuring that low-income and housing-insecure New Yorkers are able to stay warm and afford related energy costs during the winter months.”

## **MORE INFORMATION**

### **More About Homeowner Tax Exemption (HTE):**

The City offers tax breaks known as exemptions to seniors, disabled New Yorkers, veterans, and other qualifying homeowners. SCHE (Senior Citizen Homeowners’ Exemption) is a property tax break for seniors who own one-, two-, or three-family homes, condominiums, or cooperative apartments. DHE (Disabled Homeowners’ Exemption) is a property tax break for disabled New Yorkers who own one-, two-, or three-family homes, condominiums, or cooperative apartments. Thanks to changes in City and State law the SCHE and DHE tax breaks are available to homeowners with a combined annual income of \$58,399 or less. Visit [DOF’s property tax benefits](#) webpage to learn more.

### **More about HEAP:**

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) can help eligible New Yorkers heat and cool their homes. If you are a homeowner and eligible, the Heating Equipment Repair and Replacement and Clean and Tune benefits can help you repair or replace your furnace, boiler, and other direct heating equipment necessary to keep your home’s primary heating source working. Benefit amounts are based on the actual cost incurred

to repair or replace your furnace, boiler, and/or other essential heating equipment, \$4,000 for a repair and \$8,000 for a replacement. You may call your HEAP Local District Contact to apply. You can apply for HEAP benefits online by visiting [nyc.gov/accesshra](https://nyc.gov/accesshra), by visiting a HEAP location or by calling HRA's Infoline at 718-577-1399 to request an application. To learn more about HEAP, [visit nyc.gov/hra](https://nyc.gov/hra)

**About NYC Mayor's Public Engagement Unit:**

The NYC Public Engagement Unit (PEU) was created to develop a new model for government outreach, using community organizing principles to re-envision how the City provides services to its most vulnerable communities. Rather than expecting constituents to navigate a complex City bureaucracy to get the help they need, PEU adopts grassroots tactics to meet residents where they are – at their doors and on their phones, in their social media feeds, and in their communities. We marry this proactive outreach with comprehensive case management to provide New Yorkers with personalized, passionate care. GetCoveredNYC is a PEU program that provides free assistance for New Yorkers seeking to enroll in health care, regardless of immigration status or income. Our Specialists speak more than 20 languages and conduct outreach to proactively identify uninsured New Yorkers and help them get access to health care and other health-related benefits. For more information, visit [nyc.gov/PEU](https://nyc.gov/PEU) and stay connected on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MayorsPEU> or Twitter at [@MayorsPEU](https://twitter.com/MayorsPEU).