



Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

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Commissioner

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

Transmittal:	21 TA/DC002 Upstate and New York City
Date:	January 11, 2021
To:	Subscribers
Suggested Distribution:	Commissioners, HRA Center Directors, TA Directors, Employment Coordinators, Staff Development Coordinators, WMS Coordinators, Fair Hearing Officers
From:	Jeffrey Gaskell, Deputy Commissioner Employment and Income Support Programs
Subject:	Posting Requirement for Notice of Proposed Class Action Settlement for the Class Action Lawsuit, <i>Colaj v. Roberts</i> (Index No. 452243/2017, New York County)
Effective Date:	Immediately
Contact Information:	Temporary Assistance Bureau: (518) 474-9344 or otda.sm.cees.tabureau@otda.ny.gov
Attachments:	Attachment 1 – LDSS-5175 (Rev. 12/20): “Notice of Proposed Class Action Settlement About Asylum Applicants with Employment Authorization Who Were Denied Safety Net Assistance (SNA)” Attachment 2 – LDSS-5175 SP (Rev. 12/20): “Notice of Proposed Class Action Settlement About Asylum Applicants with Employment Authorization Who Were Denied Safety Net Assistance (SNA)”

Section 2

The purpose of this GIS message is to inform social services districts (districts) that the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) has reached a proposed settlement agreement in the class action lawsuit, *Colaj v. Roberts* (Index No. 452243/2017, New York County). The plaintiffs' claims focused on certain individuals who were denied Safety Net Assistance (SNA) because of their immigration status while they were asylum applicants with employment authorization.

This GIS message also notifies districts of the requirement to post the attached “Notice of Proposed Class Action Settlement About Asylum Applicants with Employment Authorization Who Were Denied Safety Net Assistance (SNA)” in advance of a hearing which will be held by phone on Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 10:00am. Class members will have the right to object to the proposed settlement as not fair, reasonable or adequate, by stating their objections in writing or by phone at the hearing.

Districts are directed to print and post the attached notice in any and all district office locations where Public Assistance applications are accepted so that potential class members are informed of the proposed settlement and the hearing. Districts are required to print the notice on 8 ½ X 14 paper and

post the English and Spanish versions of the notice (Attachment 1 and 2) side-by-side with all language displayed. The notice must be posted no later than January 15, 2021 and must remain posted through March 25, 2021.

Districts are not expected to answer any questions regarding the proposed settlement. Instead, districts should direct individuals to the plaintiffs' attorney identified on the notice to answer any questions.

The above referenced form has been posted on the OTDA Intranet website at: http://otda.state.ny.net/ldss_eforms/ and is available for downloading by districts for reproduction locally.

Questions concerning Web only posted forms should be directed to the Bureau of Management Services (BMS) Document Services at: (518) 474-9522.

For any Temporary Assistance (TA) related questions, please contact the OTDA TA Bureau: (518) 474-9344 or by email: otda.sm.cees.tabureau@otda.ny.gov.