



KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

BARBARA C. GUINN
Executive Deputy Commissioner

General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

Transmittal:	21 TA/DC078 Upstate and New York City
Date:	November 22, 2021
To:	Subscribers
Suggested Distribution:	Commissioners, TA Directors, SNAP Coordinators, HEAP Directors, Staff Development Coordinators
From:	Valerie Figueroa, Deputy Commissioner Employment and Income Support Programs
Subject:	Updates to the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)
Effective Date:	Immediately
Contact Information:	Temporary Assistance Bureau at: 518-474-9344 or otda.sm.cees.tabureau@otda.ny.gov SNAP Questions – SNAP Bureau 518-473-1469 or otda.sm.cees.snap@otda.ny.gov HEAP Questions – HEAP Bureau 518-473-0332 or nysheap@otda.ny.gov

Section 2

This General Information System (GIS) message provides guidance to social services districts (districts) on updates to the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) and the impacts of this program on Temporary Assistance (TA).

As of **November 14, 2021 at 10:00pm**, applications for ERAP will only be accepted for two categories, which are:

1. Tenant households in the following areas where ERAP allocations have not yet been exhausted*:
 - Dutchess County
 - Nassau County (not including the towns of Hempstead or Oyster Bay)
 - Niagara County
 - Oneida County
 - Saratoga County
 - Suffolk County (not including the towns of Brookhaven or Islip)
 - Westchester County (not including the city of Yonkers)

*Funding for these areas is not guaranteed. Areas are expected to be removed from the above list as funds are exhausted.

2. Tenant households in any part of the state with income over [80 percent](#) and up to [120 percent](#) of area median income, as these households can still apply for state-funded emergency rental assistance.

Individuals who live outside of the seven jurisdictions above and who do not meet the criteria for the state-funded ERAP listed in item 2 above may no longer be required to apply for ERAP as a condition of eligibility for TA, as the program is no longer considered an available resource.

For those households who already applied prior to the program closure date, and who still have an ERAP application pending, the policy communicated in [GIS 21TA/DC039](#) still applies until such time that the household receives a determination on their application. For households who have an immediate need that cannot wait for a decision on ERAP eligibility, the district must meet the immediate need the same day the applicant/recipient (A/R) identifies such immediate need.

As a reminder, A/Rs who are granted ERAP benefits must not have ERAP counted as income or as a resource for TA, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) eligibility or for budgeting purposes. For recipients who are granted ERAP benefits for prospective (future) rent, these payments will cover the difference between the TA grant and the monthly shelter cost. ERAP benefits will not be issued through the Welfare Management System (WMS).

For housing and/or energy needs that cannot be met through ERAP, districts can reference [GIS 21TA/DC039](#) and [02 ADM-02](#) on meeting the immediate/emergency needs of TA A/Rs.

The ERAP call center is open to handle ERAP inquiries over the telephone and webchat. The call center telephone number is 1-844-NY1-RENT (1-844-691-7368). The webchat can be accessed from the OTDA ERAP website. Districts may refer individuals to the call center, webchat, or Community Based Organizations (CBOs) if they have questions about ERAP. Districts can find contact information for CBOs on the OTDA ERAP website at: <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/emergency-rental-assistance/help-applying/>.