



General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

Transmittal:	22 TA/DC002 Upstate and New York City
Date:	January 4, 2022
To:	Subscribers
Suggested Distribution:	Commissioners, TA Directors, Housing/Homeless Services Directors
From:	Cheryl Contento, Deputy Commissioner Division of Shelter Oversight and Compliance
Subject:	Menstrual Products
Effective Date:	Immediately
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Summary

This GIS provides guidance on the amendments made to Social Services Law Sec. 152-c.

Purpose

To inform social services districts (districts) of legislation that was recently signed into law regarding providing menstrual products to residents of temporary shelter.

Background

Chapter 764 of the Laws of 2021 was signed by Governor Hochul on December 22, 2021. This legislation amends Social Services Law Sec. 152-c to require providers of temporary shelter to provide menstrual products to residents who need them, at no cost to the individual.

Program Implications

The amendments to Social Services Law Sec. 152-c require providers of temporary shelter that are reimbursed from state or state-administered grants or funds to provide menstrual products to residents who need such products, at no cost to the residents. For the purposes of this GIS, menstrual products include, but are not limited to sanitary napkins, tampons and panty liners.

Providers of temporary shelter who are subject to this requirement include, but are not limited to: family shelters, shelters for adults, emergency apartments, and safe houses for refugees. Additionally, hotels that are reimbursed from state or state-administered grants or funds are subject to this requirement.

All providers of temporary shelter must maintain a supply of menstrual products on site, and districts must work with hotel operators to ensure the availability of such products on site. Providers of temporary shelter must make residents aware that menstrual products are available on site free of charge. Providers of temporary shelter may include the cost of menstrual products in their annual operating budget and per diem rate that is submitted to the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) for review and approval.

As a part of the inspection process, OTDA's Division of Shelter Oversight and Compliance (DSOC) staff will confirm that shelters for adults and shelters for families subject to 18 NYCRR Parts 491 and 900 are in compliance with the Social Services Law Sec. 152-c.