



Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

DANIEL W. TIETZ
Acting Commissioner

BARBARA C. GUINN
Executive Deputy Commissioner

General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

Transmittal:	22 TA/DC004 Upstate and New York City
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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).

Due to a court order, applications for ERAP will be accepted statewide starting January 11th, 2022 at 10 p.m. There is currently no federal funding available to provide assistance in most areas of the State. Therefore, applications will only be reviewed and considered for funding if additional funds become available, except for those households that fall into one of the two categories below:

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)
 - Oneida County
 - Saratoga County
 - Suffolk County (not including the towns of Brookhaven or Islip)

*Funding for these areas is not guaranteed. Areas are expected to be removed from the above list as funds are exhausted. The OTDA website will be updated to reflect changes.

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 five 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 applied prior to the initial 11/14/21 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.

Tenant households that apply for ERAP will continue to receive ERAP tenant protections until an eligibility determination is made on the ERAP application. For additional information on these protections, please see the “Tenant Protections” section of the ERAP FAQs located here: [Frequently Asked Questions | Emergency Rental Assistance Program | OTDA \(ny.gov\)](#)

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).

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/>