



Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

BARBARA C. GUINN
Commissioner

RAJNI CHAWLA
Executive Deputy Commissioner

General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

Transmittal:	25DC073 Upstate and New York City
Date:	October 31, 2025
To:	Subscribers
Suggested Distribution:	Commissioners, TA and SNAP Directors, HEAP Coordinators, WMS Coordinators, Accounting Supervisors
From:	Valerie Figueroa, Deputy Commissioner, Employment and Income Support Programs
Subject:	Updated Information on the 2025-2026 Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Regular Component Opening Date
Effective Date:	Immediately
Contact Information:	HEAP Bureau at (518) 473-0332 or nysheap@otda.ny.gov
Attachments:	None

Section 2 - Updated Information on Opening Date for 2025-2026 HEAP Regular Benefit Component

Due to the lack of a federal budget, including an appropriation for the 2025-2026 program year, in addition to the ongoing federal government shutdown, the opening date for accepting applications for the HEAP Regular benefit component for 2025-2026 has been delayed until further notice. This supersedes previous guidance provided in [25DC068 - 2025-2026 Home Energy Assistance Program \(HEAP\) Regular Component Opening Date Postponed](#) that stated that the HEAP Regular benefit component would open November 17.

Please share this updated information with all local certifiers. OTDA will also be providing this updated information to vendors.

OTDA will issue updated guidance as additional information becomes available. Please continue to check the OTDA website for up-to-date information at otda.ny.gov.

Section 3 - Early Outreach Application and Autopay Processing

Districts may continue to accept Early Outreach Applications and process accordingly. Applications that will be approved may be processed and payments to vendors will be held by the system until program opening and federal funding is received. District BICS locks must remain in “L” locked status to prevent the release of direct HEAP benefits that will be paid to Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards. HEAP denials must not be processed until program opening.

Information regarding the Public Assistance (PA) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) autopay will be provided as it becomes available. There is no final schedule for these at this time.

Section 4 – Energy Emergencies Prior to HEAP opening

Applicants who present to the district with an energy emergency prior to HEAP opening should be referred to PA using the guidelines outlined in [25DC067-Processing Public Assistance \(PA\) Requests for Energy Emergencies](#). Individuals in receipt of SNAP or PA who have energy emergencies should have their eligibility determined as if HEAP is not an available resource.

Districts are encouraged to collaborate with community partners and outreach organizations to ensure households are informed about available resources to meet energy emergency needs.