

Subject: NYC OEM - COVID-19 Resources

"Feeding New York"

The City of New York recently released the plan for keeping New Yorkers fed during the COVID-19 pandemic. "Feeding New York" is the City's plan to feed hungry New Yorkers throughout this crisis and protect the security of our food supply chain. In total, the City is investing \$170 million over the next several months in this unprecedented effort. The approach begins with immediate steps to secure our food supply chain and feed hungry and vulnerable New Yorkers. In the coming weeks, it will transition to the second phase, preparing for evolving and growing needs and building resilience into the food supply. To view the plan, please click here.

Get Food

During the COVID-19 public health crisis, NYC is taking steps to make sure every New Yorker has access to the food they need. Through NYC.gov/getfood, New Yorkers can access information about food assistance programs and resources, including:

- A map of free food resources across the city, including food pantries and Grab & Go meals at NYC Schools,
- Signing up for SNAP benefits or cash assistance from home,
- Ways to give and receive help during COVID-19, and
- **Solution** Food delivery assistance for individuals.

Please visit the following resources for additional information on COVID-19 and the City's response:

NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene COVID-19 information page

- MelpNowNYC
- MOPD COVID-19 Resources for People with Disabilities

Text 'COVID' to 692692 (NYC-NYC) for accurate, real time updates from Notify NYC and NYC Emergency Management. (Alerts are also available in Spanish by texting 'COVIDESP' to 692-692.)

Spiritual Protection for Your Health and Your Wealth:

https://www.curtlandry.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Spiritual-Protection-for-Your-Health-and-Your-Wealth.pdf?utm campaign=resource&utm medium=email&utm source=email-broadcast&utm content=protection&utm term=existing-list

Everything relating to **NYC Mental Health Services**: 888-NYC-WELL – Mrs. Chirlane McCray (Wife of Mayor DeBlasio, Mayor of New York)



Churches will become temporary COVID-19 testing sites to increase access to testing.

Call Northwell Health COVID Response at 833-422-7369 to schedule an appointment

24 Testing Sites at Churches in NYC & LI

NEW YORK (WABC) -- New York is launching a new initiative to expand access to testing in low-income communities and communities of color in New York City, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced Saturday.

The state is partnering with Northwell Health to establish 24 additional, temporary testing sites at churches in predominantly minority communities.

"This is a different kind of partnership, it's creative, but it's necessary," Cuomo said, explaining that churches will do the community outreach to drive home why testing is needed, and Northwell will handle the testing.

Cuomo said of the 21 zip codes with the most new COVID-19 hospitalizations, 20 have greater-than-average black or Latino populations.

The governor said adding the church sites to the drive-through, walk-in and public-housing testing facilities already in place means coverage will be extensive.

"The sites will be there, we now need New Yorkers to go get the tests," Cuomo said. "You want to know if you have it, not just for yourself, but so you don't communicate it to anyone else."

Some will be opening the week of May 12 while others are scheduled to open the week of May 19.

Testing sites opening in the following churches during the week of May 12th-16th Grace Baptist Church – Mount Vernon
Trinity Baptist Church - Bronx
Abyssinian Baptist Church - Manhattan
Christian Church John 3:16 - Bronx
Abundant Life Tabernacle - Bronx
First Baptist Cathedral of Westbury – Long Island
New Jerusalem Worship Center – Jamaica, Queens
Bethany Baptist Church - Brooklyn
Greater Allen Cathedral, AME - Queens
Christian Cultural Center - Brooklyn
Mt. Sinai United Christian Church – Staten Island

Testing sites opening in the following churches during the week of May 19th-23rd Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help – Brooklyn (Sunset Park)
Holy Cross – Brooklyn (Flatbush)
Central Family Life Center – Staten Island (?)
St. Paul Community Baptist Church - Brooklyn
The Greater Springfield Community Church – Queens
Union Baptist Church – Long Island
First Baptist of Corona – Queens
Fort Mott Baptist Church – Bronx
Mount Neboh Baptist Church - Manhattan

Mount Ararat Baptist Church - Brooklyn Latino Pastor Action Network – Bronx Union Grove Baptist Church - Bronx Convent Avenue Baptist Church – Manhattan



Burial Assistance https://www1.nyc.gov/site/hra/help/burial-assistance.page

To address the unprecedented impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic, DSS/HRA issued an emergency rule:

- Increasing the burial allowance from \$900 to \$1,700 and increasing the cap on burial costs from \$1,700 to \$3,400.
- Extending the timeframe for when you can apply to 120 days from the date of the individual's death.

Applications received on or after March 12, 2020 will be considered for the increased burial assistance allowance. All applications received will be reviewed regardless of immigration status.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic our office hours are limited, we are open to the public on Wednesdays between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. To help stop the spread of COVID-19, many HRA locations are consolidating until further notice. If your needs cannot be met by <u>ACCESS HRA</u>, call 311 or consult the HRA Locations page for more information.

Contact the NYC HRA Office of Burial Services:

Our office is now located at: 33-28 Northern Blvd. - 3rd Floor Long Island City, NY 11101 You can call us at:

929-252-7731

Please leave a message and an OBS staff member will return your call before the end of the next business day.

Burial Allowance Application M-860W:

View the Application for Burial Allowance and find out more about what HRA will cover.
You can also view the Burial Allowance Application form in: Español | Русский | 中文 | Kreyòl | 한국어 | আংলা | Français | Polski | 简化字 | 신호 |

View the Instructions for the Burial Allowance Application form in: English | Español

Learn more about the application process below.

Ways to apply: In-Person or Mail:

NYC HRA Office of Burial Services 33-28 Northern Blvd. - 3rd Floor Long Island City, NY 11101

Fax:

The application can be faxed to 917-639-0476

Email:

The application can be emailed to BurialServices@hra.nyc.gov

Call us at **929-252-7731** if you need a copy of the application and we will mail or email you an application. If you need assistance with completing the on-line application, give us a call.

Burial Allowance Application Process

Background

The Human Resources Administration (HRA), Office of Burial Services (OBS) assists individuals in need of financial assistance to meet funeral expenses for a deceased low-income New York City resident (decedent). Payment may be authorized to reimburse funeral expenses that have already been paid or pre-approval for payment may be authorized for the cost of a planned funeral.

What can be covered

OBS can pay up to a maximum amount of **\$1,700 under the current emergency rule** towards the cost of a funeral bill for a decedent's final disposition (which includes burial, cremation or burying of cremation ashes) to the decedent's relative, friend, Organizational Friend or authorized representative.

In the event, the funeral bill exceeds the **current \$3,400** cap under the emergency rule, the cost of the burial plot, grave opening or cremation will be deducted from the total bill and where the remaining bill amount is less than the above cap a burial allowance will be approved.

Eligibility

The burial allowance is available to low income decedents that do not have resources or assets available to pay for their funeral. Proof of low-income status may include, receipt of social services benefits or public assistance from HRA such as cash assistance, supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) benefits, or social security benefits including supplemental security income (SSI). A legally responsible relative (a spouse **or** parent of a deceased minor under age twenty-one (21)) that applies for the allowance must also be unable to pay the funeral bill and meet the low-income eligibility criteria to qualify.

To determine eligibility, an application must be submitted and OBS will assess the individual circumstances of each case.

To apply

The applicant who is responsible for the funeral arrangements or his/her representative must file an application within **one hundred-twenty (120) days under the emergency rule,** from the date of the decedent's death with the Office of Burial Services.

The Burial Allowance application, M-860W, can be obtained by using the above link or by calling the Office of Burial Services to request an application. The application information can be directly entered on the form available on the website.

Supporting documentation

We will accept a photo or scanned image of a document via email and we may require a hard copy if the image or photo is not legible. Below is a list of the general documentation needed to begin processing the burial allowance application. OBS may request additional documents to determine eligibility based upon the facts and circumstances of each case.

- A Burial Allowance Application Form M-860W completed and signed by the applicant or authorized representative. See application for details.
- One original certified copy of the Death Certificate (it will be returned to the applicant).

- A copy of the Funeral Contract also known as the Statement of Goods and Services Selected. The contract must be signed by the Funeral Director and by the person that made the funeral arrangements.
- A copy of the cemetery or crematory bill, itemizing all charges.
- Original itemized funeral bill signed by the Funeral Director and notarized in the presence of a Notary Public or Commissioner of Deeds. The funeral bill must be stamped "Paid-in-Full" if the charges have been paid and the applicant is seeking reimbursement.
- Original fully completed Funeral Director's Affidavit forms signed by the Funeral Director and notarized in the presence of a Notary Public or Commissioner of Deeds, if there is money still owed to the funeral establishment. See link to Funeral Director's Affidavit.
- **NOTE:** During the pandemic an electronic signature to be used by a person in lieu of a signature affixed by hand in executing documents and forms authorizing or accepting funeral services. NYS Governor's Executive Order 202.11 March 27, 2020.

Payments

In the case of reimbursement to an individual, to receive a payment you will need a form of identification to verify the name and address of the person receiving the payment from HRA. For payments to an Organizational Friend, funeral home or funeral services provider a W-9 will be required. OBS can assist you with requesting the W-9 information.

For additional information you can reach us at (929) 252-7731. Please leave a message and we will return your call before the end of the next business day.

