NY City: Cash Assistance Program

Description of Program and Relief

Eligible New York City residents can receive need-based cash assistance through the City’s Temporary Aid to Needy Families Program (“TANF”). The City also offers emergency grants of cash assistance to residents who are unable to pay rent because their work schedules have been reduced.

Government or Lead Agency

The New York City Human Resources Administration.

Dates Available

Available immediately.

Eligibility Requirements/Restrictions

To receive cash assistance through TANF, a New York City resident must be living with the resident’s minor child, or serve as the child’s caretaking relative, and satisfy certain income and work requirements. You can determine your eligibility for TANF through this link. Eligible families may receive up to 60 months (5 years) of cash assistance under TANF.

You may be eligible for a temporary, emergency cash grant if someone is added to your budget or if it will meet certain special needs. Situations that may make you eligible for additional cash assistance are located here. Qualifying circumstances include:

- Homelessness;
- Paying back rent to prevent your eviction;
- Payment necessary to maintain or restore utility service(s); and
- Circumstances that affect you or your family’s health and safety.

If you must move due to the current public health crisis, you may be eligible for help with moving expenses, security deposit voucher, broker’s fees, or temporary storage for furniture and personal belongings.

In most cases, eligible clients receiving temporary cash assistance are required to engage in work and/or educational activities. Clients participating in an approved program can receive transportation and child
care expenses in order to meet their requirements (but not expenses covering the cost of tuition, books, and fees for these programs). Available training and education programs can be found here.

Applicants for cash assistance can initially apply online, by mail, by fax, or in-person. The latter is not recommended in light of the outbreak and all in-person appointments with The New York City Human Resources Administration have been cancelled at this time with no negative actions to be taken on any cases.

**Application Deadlines (If Applicable)**

No deadline.

To apply online, an applicant must create a NYC account through this link. The online application is available here.

Apply by mail or fax using this application (complete the instructions for “Public Assistance”).

The application can be mailed or faxed to a Human Resources Administration Job Center listed in this link and designated with “**”.

Applicants can also apply in-person by visiting a Job Center, but this is not recommended in light of the outbreak, and all in-person appointments have been cancelled at this time.

**Contact for More Information**

Call 311 (212-NEW-YORK outside NYC) or contact the Human Resources Administration through this link.

**List of Additional Information**

The Human Resources Administration’s Cash Assistance Website is available here.

311 Website’s Coronavirus Page is available here.

The Eligibility Factors and Suggested Documentation Guide is available through this link.