



QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT
DONOVAN RICHARDS JR &
HOUSING COURT ANSWERS
PRESENT INFORMATION ON:

THE END OF THE EVICTON MORATORIUM

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25TH 2021
6-7PM (ZOOM LINK BELOW)

With addresses by:

Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr.
Jordan Dressler, **Office of Civil Justice Coordinator**
Sateesh Nori, Attorney in Charge, **Civil Queens Practice of The Legal Aid Society**
Helen Jang, **Program Director Korean Community Services**



OFFICE OF THE
QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT
CITY OF NEW YORK
DONOVAN RICHARDS JR. - PRESIDENT

What is going on now?

- The US Supreme Court put a freeze on New York's eviction moratorium. But do not move out! Tenants have other protections!!
 - Homeowners can still file a Hardship Declaration to stall their foreclosure.
- Tenants are protected from eviction if they file for ERAP (EMERGENCY RENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM)
- The NYC Right to Counsel law protects all tenants with cases in Housing Court.
- The Tenant Safe Harbor Act protects tenants from eviction in nonpayment cases also.



Housing Court Answers Hotline

Call us for a direct referral for free legal representation if you have a court case.

Call us if you have a question about your housing or about eviction.

Call us for information on help with back rent – ERAP and other sources are available. Your immigration status does not matter!

Our hotline staff speak English, Spanish, French, and Bengali and we have access to interpretation services for other languages.



Get Help With ERAP - Queens Groups

Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York, Inc

646-248-6602

RiseBoro Community Partnership

718-547-2800

Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services (CCNS)

718-880-3286





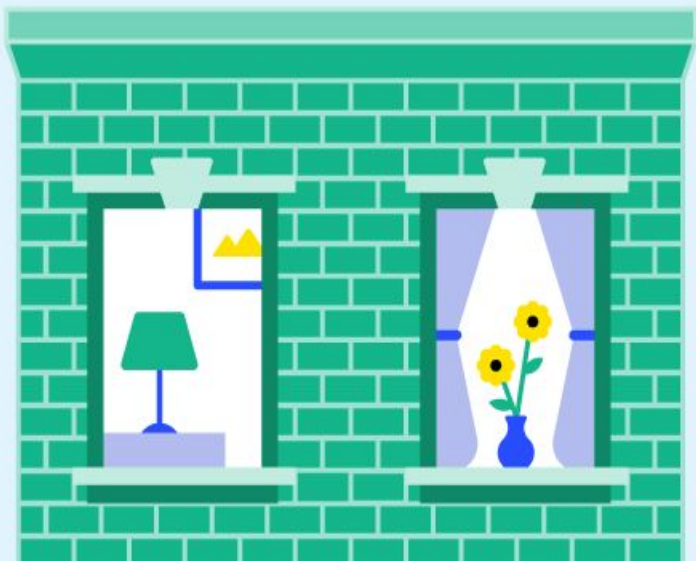
Call us!

Housing Court Answers

Our hotline is open Monday through Friday, 9 to 5.

212-962-4795

HousingCourtAnswers.org



Existing Protections For Tenants

ERAP – Tenants who apply for ERAP are protected from eviction while their application is pending

Tenant Safe Harbor Act – Tenants impacted by COVID-19 have an affirmative defense to eviction for nonpayment of rent

~~**CDC Eviction Protection Declaration**~~
~~– May offer limited protection for tenants not eligible for ERAP~~ *The Supreme Court struck down the CDC Moratorium

Your Rights As A Tenant

- If you applied for ERAP, the Court should pause your eviction case
- You have a right to stay in your home until a judge orders you to leave. Its illegal for a landlord to change the locks on you.
- If you need repairs, or you are being harassed by your landlord, you can start a case in Housing Court
- Questions? Call 311 and ask for the Tenant Helpline

HRA'S OFFICE OF CIVIL JUSTICE

Evictions, New York City Housing Court, and the Right to Counsel

August 25, 2021

OCJ's Legal Services for NYC Tenants

- HRA's Office of Civil Justice (**OCJ**) provides **free legal services** to New York City tenants facing eviction, harassment, disrepair and other housing-related issues.
- OCJ is implementing New York City's **right-to-counsel (RTC) law** ensuring that all tenants facing eviction cases in court have access to free legal assistance.
- In addition to RTC, OCJ provides access to free legal assistance for tenants in a range of housing-related cases. OCJ supports legal representation and advice programs for New York City tenants to help maintain and preserve their housing and **protect against harassment, disrepair or other misconduct** by unscrupulous landlords.
- OCJ has also established a **Housing Help Hotline** accessible via the **City's Tenant Helpline/311** to provide phone-based advice and information to NYC tenants with questions or concerns about landlord-tenant issues.
- OCJ's legal services are available **citywide in every ZIP code** and **regardless of immigration status**.

NYC's Right-to-Counsel Law

- NYC's RTC program is administered by OCJ and legal services are provided by contracted **nonprofit legal services organizations** from across the five boroughs.
- City-funded legal services are available for **all tenants facing eviction in housing court or NYCHA administrative proceedings** - at or close to the first court appearance.
- **Legal representation** for tenants with households at or above 200% of federal poverty guidelines (approximately \$53,000 for a family of four), and **brief legal assistance** for those earning more.
- **RTC legal providers are available** to assist unrepresented tenants in eviction court conferences (appear by teleconference or in-person)

How to Access OCJ's Legal Services

- **Call Housing Court Answers at (718) 557-1379 or (212) 962-4795**
- **Call 311 and ask for the Tenant Helpline**
- **Email OCJ at civiljustice@hra.nyc.gov**
- **Contact a nonprofit law office near you. Visit www.nyc.gov/rtc for a list of OCJ's nonprofit law office partners that provide free legal help for tenants**

Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York, Inc.

Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) Presentation

Presenter: Bryan Lee

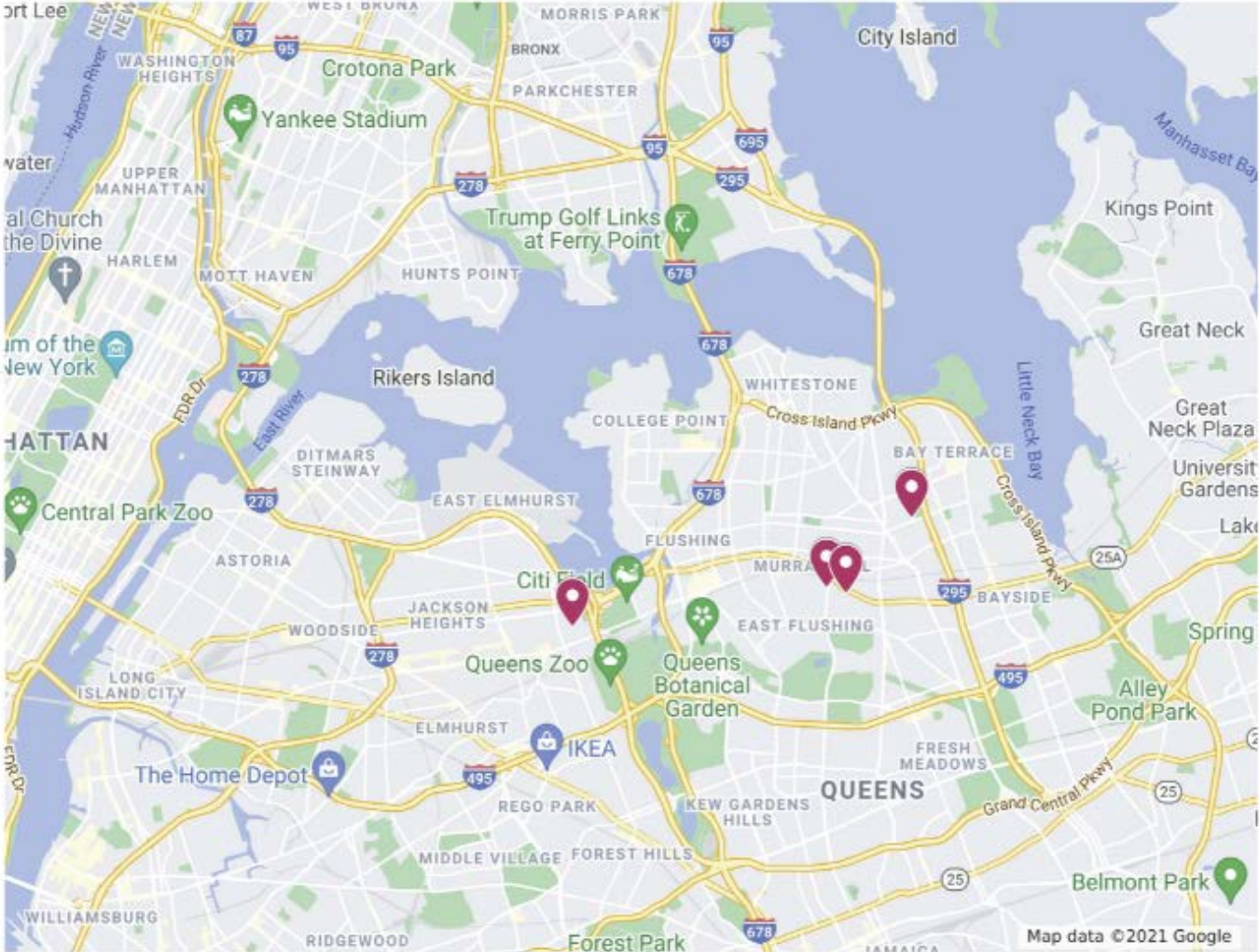
8/25/2021



KCS OFFICES

Untitled layer

- Corona Senior Center
- Manhattan (PHRC/WFD)
- Brooklyn (WFD)
- New Jersey
- Headquarters
- Flushing Senior Center
- Mental Health Clinic



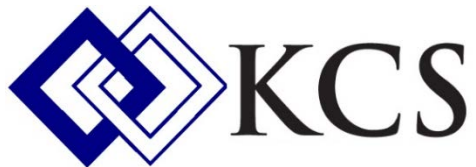
KCS Mission Statement

- *We strive to be a “one-stop” through which people — regardless of their immigration or financial status — can access the opportunities and resources they need in order to overcome health, economic, and social barriers to thriving in American society.*



What is the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)?

- Assist households behind on their rent that have experienced financial hardship due to COVID-19 and can provide:
 - Rental Arrears (up to 12 months)
 - Prospective rent (up to 3 months)
 - Utility arrears (up to 12 months)



Do I Qualify for ERAP?

- Eligible residents must meet *ALL* the following criteria:
 - Household Gross Income at or below 80% of area median income (AMI).
 - Member of household received unemployment insurance, or experienced financial hardship due to COVID-19.
 - Applicant owes past due rent at their current residence.

Gross Annual Income Limits by Household Size

1	2	3	4	5
\$66,850	\$76,400	\$85,950	\$95,450	\$103,100



How Do I Apply for ERAP?

- Tenants and Landlords must apply on the OTDA Portal:
 - <https://nysrenthelp.otda.ny.gov/en/index>
- If applicant requires application assistance they are able to:
 - Call the OTDA hotline 1-844-691-7368.
 - Contact KCS or other Community-Based Organizations to create in-person appointments for direct assistance.
 - KCS Hotline: 646-248-6602
 - KCS E-mail: erap@kcsny.org



What is the OTDA Portal?

- Online portal that all applicants must use to apply.



The screenshot shows the official Emergency Rental Assistance Program for New York State. The header includes the phone number 844-NY1-RENT, a language dropdown set to English, and buttons for Sign Up and Login. The main content area features the New York State logo, navigation links for Home and Program Overview and Eligibility, and a large purple banner with the text: "WELCOME TO THE NEW YORK STATE EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ERAP) Provided by the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance". A button labeled "HOW TO APPLY" is positioned below the banner.



Emergency Rental Assistance Program

The Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) will provide significant economic relief to assist households that are unable to pay rent and utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds are provided directly to States, U.S. Territories, local governments, and Indian tribes. Grantees use the funds to provide assistance to eligible households through existing or newly created rental assistance programs.

Quick Links



ERAP Application

Apply now for the New York State Emergency Rental Assistance Program:

[APPLY HERE NOW!](#)

[REGISTER NOW!](#)

KCS ERAP

- ERAP at KCS is designed to help in-need community members avoid eviction through direct and indirect assistance.



KCS Hotline:
646-248-6602
KCS E-mail:
erap@kcsny.org



NEW YORK STATE EXCLUDED WORKERS FUND

Fondo para Trabajadores Excluidos

APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN ONLINE!

<https://ewf.labor.ny.gov/>

Queens Borough President's Office
Immigrant Welcome Center



WHAT IS THE EXCLUDED WORKERS FUND?

A one-time payment to workers who lost income between March 27, 2020 and April 1, 2021 but are excluded from state Unemployment Insurance (UI) and federal COVID-related assistance.

- **Tier 1 amount of \$15,600 (minus taxes)**, applicants need to establish a minimum of 5 points of documents.
- **Tier 2 amount of \$3,200 (minus taxes)**, applicants need to establish a minimum of 3 points of documents.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

1. Lived in New York State before **March 27, 2020**, and continue to live in New York State;
2. Are not eligible for and did not receive unemployment insurance or any other COVID-19 income relief or other specified benefits from the state or federal government;
3. **Earned less than \$26,208** in the 12 months prior to April 2021; and
4. **Lost at least 50% of weekly work-related earnings** or household income at any point in time between February 23, 2020 and April 1, 2021 due to total or partial unemployment, or inability or unavailability to work due to the COVID-19 pandemic or, became responsible for a majority of their household income due to death or disability of the head of household

WHAT DO YOU NEED AND HOW TO APPLY:

- Applicants need to have documents that prove
 - **identity, residency, and work-related eligibility**
- Full list of documents can be found: <https://dol.ny.gov/EWFApply>

- State assigned Community Based Organizations that can help:
<https://dol.ny.gov/cbolist>
- QBPO Immigrant Welcome Center:
 - **718-286-0644** or welcome@queensbp.org