



Legislation Text

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Proposed Int. No. 855-A

By Council Members Kallos, Rosenthal, Reynoso, Rose, Richards, Rodriguez, Menchaca, Perkins, Lander, Williams, Van Bramer, Johnson, Chin, Levin and the Public Advocate (Ms. James)

A Local Law to amend administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to notification of public assistance eligibility

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 1 of title 21 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 21-138 to read as follows:

§ 21-138 Notification of public assistance eligibility a. Definitions. For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

Notice. The term “notice” means a written communication sent through the mail or, with the consent of an individual, through electronic means with the ability to track and confirm delivery.

Public assistance. The term “public assistance” means all forms of public benefits provided by the federal government, state of New York, or city of New York that an individual may apply for through the department including but not limited to: cash assistance; the home energy assistance program; medicaid; and the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

Renewal. The term “renewal” means the automatic or affirmative act of recertifying or re-applying for public assistance, as may be required on a periodic basis, for an individual already receiving such public assistance.

b. For every individual who submits an application for a public assistance, or is in receipt of public assistance, the department shall determine other forms of public assistance for which the individual may qualify

based on the individual's public assistance application, and the department shall provide the individual with the following:

1. Notice of any additional public assistance for which the individual may qualify. Such notice shall include a copy of the applicable applications and instructions on how to apply for such public assistance. In instances where public assistance may be applied for or renewed online, individuals shall be provided with a link to access the application or renewal online. Individuals shall have the opportunity to decline receiving applications or renewals in paper.

2. Pre-filled applications with information obtained from the individual's initial public assistance application. For a form of public assistance that requires renewal where the recipient is already receiving such public assistance, the department shall provide the recipient a renewal application that has already been filled with applicable information obtained from the individual's last public assistance application and instructions. In instances where public assistance may be applied for or renewed online, the individual shall be provided with a link to securely access the applicable public benefit application online that has been filled with information obtained from the individual's last public benefit application along with instructions. The individual shall have the opportunity to decline receiving applications or renewals in paper.

c. Beginning no later than six months after the effective date of the local law that added this section, the department shall submit to the council and post on its website a plan describing the efforts the department is undertaking to enroll all individuals eligible for public assistance, and shall include the number of individuals the department seeks to enroll on an annual basis. Such plan shall be updated annually.

d. Beginning no later than one year after the effective date of the local law that added this section, the department shall submit to the council and post on its website the number of individuals offered assistance pursuant to this local law and the number of such individuals enrolled in a public assistance program, disaggregated by program type.

e. The city shall provide individuals with assistance in completing public assistance applications online,

over the phone through 311 and at the agency accepting public assistance applications.

§ 2. This local law takes effect immediately

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