

New York City Council

Memorandum in Support of Legislation

This memorandum is authored by the sponsor and explains the need for the legislation referenced below, in accordance with Rule 6.00(d) of the Rules of the Council.

Introduction Number:

Int. No. 0028-2024

Prime Sponsors:

Council Member Amanda Farías

Bill Title:

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to establishing a system to obtain employment and income information from a third-party for the city's use in making determinations for benefits and services eligibility

Submitted by:

Council Member Amanda Farías

Justification:

Right now, individual city workers have to parse through every individual benefits and services application they receive to make determinations, which is a particularly slow process that delays critical support to those in need. Local government's main function is to ensure constituents receive essential services efficiently. In New York State, one in four adults is experiencing food insecurity, and in my borough, the Bronx, it's a staggering 39%. This bill would establish a system for the city to access and obtain employment and income data from a trusted third party, streamlining eligibility determinations for benefits. By automating parts of the process, the city can deliver services faster and more accurately. We know that programs like SNAP are often emergency relief for some New Yorkers and their families, and we cannot afford to leave our neighbors waiting weeks just to find out if they qualify for a single benefit. This legislation is long overdue and only grows more urgent as inflation rises and the affordability crisis continues.