

Emergency Assistance (EA) – New York

Resources/Community Assistance Fact Sheet 2026

What is Emergency Assistance?

Emergency Assistance (EA) is a category of Temporary Assistance (TA) that helps resolve an urgent need or situation. TA programs are administered by the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) and provide cash assistance to individuals and families experiencing an emergency situation.

Some examples of an emergency include homelessness, a pending eviction, having little or no food, lack of fuel for heating in the cold weather, a utility shut off, or pending disconnection.

EA can help pay for/assist with:

- overdue rent
- temporary housing
- utility arrears
- heating fuel

Note: Recipients of EA are not required to be eligible for ongoing TA.

What are the EA programs?

- **Emergency Assistance for Adults (EAA)** is intended to meet the temporary emergency needs of aged, blind, or disabled individuals and couples who have been determined eligible for or are receiving SSI, which if not met would endanger the health, safety, or welfare of the SSI individual or couple.
- **Emergency Assistance to Needy Families (EAF)** provides assistance to meet the emergency needs of pregnant women and families with at least one child under age 18, or under age 19 and regularly attending full-time secondary school.

- **Emergency Safety Net Assistance (ESNA)** provides emergency assistance to single adults and childless couples.

How do I apply for benefits?

You can apply online at myBenefits.ny.gov or fill out the [application form](#) and file it at your local department of Social Services. You should identify any emergency needs you have at that time. If you have an emergency, you will be interviewed and told in writing about the decision on your emergency the same day you apply.

What income will impact eligibility for TA?

All income is considered when determining need for TA.

Do I have to report my work income?

Yes. Report any income changes immediately to your local Social Services agency. Reporting helps to avoid overpayments, which must be paid back to the state. This is critical to avoid jeopardizing eligibility for future benefits, should you need them.

For more info on Temporary Assistance:

- [NY Temporary Assistance](#)
- **Hotline 1-800-342-3009**

Locate your local Department of Social Services: [Local Departments of Social Services](#)

For more information about
Work Without Limits Benefits Counseling
call toll-free
1-877-YES-WORK (1-877-937-9675)
or visit workwithoutlimits.org