



General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

Transmittal:	25DC051 Upstate and New York City
Date:	July 21, 2025
To:	Subscribers
Suggested Distribution:	Commissioners, HEAP Coordinators, TA Directors, SNAP Directors
From:	Valerie Figueroa, Deputy Commissioner, Employment and Income Support Programs
Subject:	New York State (NYS) Department of Health (DOH) Essential Plan Cooling Program
Effective Date:	Immediately
Contact Information:	HEAP Bureau 518-472-0332 or NYSHEAP@OTDA.NY.GOV
Attachments:	Attachment 1: Essential Plan Cooling Program Fact Sheet

Section 2

The purpose of this GIS is to inform social service districts (districts) of the Essential Plan Cooling Program through the NYS DOH. This program provides air conditioners on a first come-first serve basis to eligible plan members through the NY State of Health. The program opened on May 19, 2025, and will run through August 31, 2025, or until funds are exhausted, whichever comes first.

This statewide initiative provides an air conditioner to eligible individuals that:

- Are enrolled as an Essential Plan Member through NY State of Health;
- Have persistent asthma; and
- Can attest that their household has not received a cooling unit in the past five years through the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Cooling Program.

Individuals seeking information regarding the Essential Plan Cooling Program should be directed to DOH. Full program eligibility criteria and directions on how to apply may be found online at <https://info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/CoolingProgram>. The attached program fact sheet (Attachment 1) may also be used for outreach and public distribution.