



Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

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General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

Transmittal:	25DC068 Upstate and New York City
Date:	October 21, 2025
To:	Subscribers
Suggested Distribution:	Commissioners, TA and SNAP Directors, HEAP Coordinators, WMS Coordinators, Accounting Supervisors
From:	Valerie Figueroa, Deputy Commissioner, Employment and Income Support Programs
Subject:	2025-2026 Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Regular Component Opening Date Postponed
Effective Date:	Immediately
Contact Information:	HEAP Bureau at (518) 473-0332 or NYSHEAP@otda.ny.gov
Attachments:	None

Section 2

The purpose of this GIS is to inform social service districts (districts) that due to the ongoing federal government shutdown and the resulting delay in the approval and release of federal funding, the opening date for the 2025-2026 HEAP Regular Component has been postponed to November 17, 2025. OTDA will issue updated guidance as additional information becomes available.

Section 3

Districts may continue to accept Early Outreach Applications and process accordingly. Applications that will be approved may be processed and payments to vendors will be held by the system until program opening and federal funding is received. District BICS locks must remain in "L" locked status to prevent the release of direct HEAP benefits that will be paid to Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards. HEAP denials must not be processed until program opening.

Information regarding the Public Assistance (PA) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) autopay will be provided as it becomes available.

Applicants who present to the district with an energy emergency should be referred to PA using the guidelines outlined in [25DC067-Processing Public Assistance \(PA\) Requests for Energy Emergencies](#).

Districts are encouraged to collaborate with community partners and outreach organizations to ensure households are informed about available resources.

Questions should be directed to the district's HEAP Bureau Liaison.