



**Office of Temporary
and Disability Assistance**

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

BARBARA C. GUINN
Commissioner

RAJNI CHAWLA
Executive Deputy Commissioner

October 31, 2025

Dear Utility Partners,

We are writing to inform you that due to the lack of a federal budget and an appropriation for the 2025-2026 Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) as well as the ongoing federal government shutdown, the opening date for accepting applications for the HEAP Regular benefit component for the 2025-2026 program has been delayed until further notice. This information supersedes any prior communication indicating that applications would be accepted beginning November 17, 2025.

OTDA will issue updated guidance as additional information becomes available.

We value our continued partnership and understand the difficulties this delay will impose on those households we serve, local social services districts and all of our stakeholders.

You can reach us at NYSHEAP@otda.ny.gov. Thank you for your ongoing dedication to serving NY's most vulnerable populations.

Sincerely,

/s/ KS / 10-31-2025

Keri Stark
HEAP Director
Employment and Income Support Programs