

ACCESS NYC

Benefit Information. One Place.

Newsletter

August 2008

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It's Not Too Late To File

File Before October 15, 2008

Over 204,566 NYC low-income Social Security and Veteran's Administration beneficiaries still have not filed a 2007 tax return to receive their Economic Stimulus Payment, leaving millions of dollars unclaimed. Many are in danger of missing out on these vital payments because they may not otherwise be required to file a tax return.

The IRS is in the third phase of their ESP campaign designed to make those who are not aware that "It's not too late to file". Please help us to encourage the seniors, veteran's and disabled community to file before October 15, 2008.

The IRS has mailed a 1040A-4 package to those who have not yet claimed their ESP. It includes "10 easy steps for completing an Economic Stimulus Return" as well as a completed sample of a 1040A Economic Stimulus Return. The IRS hotline number for help with ESP returns or finding a local IRS office is 1-800-829-0582 x377. The IRS' website for ESP information in English and Spanish is <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=177937.00.html>

AARP has a wonderful tool for completing the ESP returns. The link is www.aarp.org/stimulushelp



See page 2 for how to apply for free a computer

Computer Giveaway

The ACCESS NYC training and outreach team has given away over 200 FREE computers to approximately 80 non-profit organizations throughout all 5 boroughs to be used as ACCESS NYC terminals!

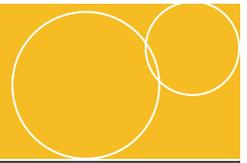
Each ACCESS NYC terminal is comprised of a computer and printer that can be used by New York City residents to visit ACCESS NYC and print out applications, forms, and information. The terminals have been placed in public areas, resource rooms and waiting rooms so that consumers visiting the awarded non-profit organization can screen themselves for benefits using ACCESS NYC.

New Yorkers who are visiting a location where an ACCESS NYC terminal is located can now use their wait time to help themselves find out about 35 different City, State, and Federal programs and

benefits they may be eligible to receive. In addition to screening for benefits, New Yorkers can use the ACCESS NYC terminals to print out partially completed applications, blank applications, directions to office locations, and a summary of all the information they put into ACCESS NYC.

Each terminal comes with an ACCESS NYC guidebook that will allow people who are not comfortable on the internet to follow step-by-step directions to navigate the web site as well as a quick reference guide for users who are basically comfortable on the web site but need a little bit of guidance. The organizations also received promotional materials to help let their clients know about this new resource that is now available to them.

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ACCESS NYC Linking to Community Based Organizations



ACCESS NYC kicked off the summer by hosting an outreach event at Brooklyn’s Central Library – Grand Army Plaza - for community based organizations in that borough that are listed in the office location section of ACCESS NYC .

This forum gave agencies the opportunity to become familiar with ACCESS NYC and also gain insight as to how New Yorkers link to the services they offer. Over 45 people attended the forum representing approximately 35 different organizations.

ACCESS NYC also took this opportunity to ask agencies to place the ACCESS NYC link on their respective web sites. As ACCESS NYC links to the agencies, the agencies can also link to ACCESS NYC. The end result will be that when individuals visit the agencies’ website for service information they will also be able to get additional benefit information by clicking on the

ACCESS NYC link. By using ACCESS NYC New Yorkers can get a better sense of the benefits and programs that are available and how to get them.

ACCESS NYC looks forward to having this event at the Central Libraries in each of the other boroughs throughout the rest of the year. Expanding on the success of our first forum, these events will be open to all agencies within the boroughs in addition to those that can be found in the office location section on ACCESS NYC. Look for announcement of this event in your borough.

If your staff would like to participate in our Central Libraries event, please contact Marva Gayle and we will send an invitation to your agency. If you are unable to attend, but would still like to add a link from your site to ours you can also email Marva Gayle at mgayle@hhsconnect.nyc.gov.

Computer Giveaway

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In order to prepare the awarded organizations to support the use of the ACCESS NYC terminals, the ACCESS NYC training team is conducting trainings for the site staff so they will be prepared to answer questions about the new ACCESS NYC terminals located at their sites.

ACCESS NYC was designed for New Yorkers to screen themselves for benefits, and now they have even more places they may go to use the web site!



Computer Giveaway Re-opened

Do you feel that your organization missed out on this great opportunity to provide your clients with an ACCESS NYC computer terminal? It is not too late! We have re-opened the computer terminal giveaway and the application process is even easier! To receive a copy of the new application for the computer giveaway, send an email to accessnyc@hhsconnect.nyc.gov subject: Computer Giveaway Application Request



Contact ACCESS NYC for Free Training and Materials

E-mail Sabrina Smith-Sweeney (ssmith-sweeney@hhsconnect.nyc.gov) for information on trainings, marketing materials and help with adding a link to ACCESS NYC to your website

Call 311 with questions about using the program or click on the contact us button on the top of every page