

ACCESS NYC

Benefit Information. One Place.

Newsletter

December 2008

Welcome - Bienvenido - 歡迎 - أهلا وسهلا - Byenveni - 환영합니다 - Добро пожаловать

All 545 Computers Given Away

ACCESS NYC has successfully distributed all 545 ACCESS NYC terminals (computers and printers) throughout the five boroughs!

We are looking forward to working with all of the organizations that have elected to partner with us by putting these computers in public places for individuals to screen themselves, learn about benefits and apply for School Meals on ACCESS NYC. We are very excited that more individuals will now be able to get information about benefits in New York City.

If you would like to request materials to help promote the availability of the computers at your site, or just to let your individuals know about ACCESS NYC, please send an email to accessnyc@hhsconnect.nyc.gov. You may also email us to request training or with general questions about the new computers.

Congratulations partner agencies!

We're pleased to report that 128 organizations received 1 or more computers. Computers were distributed in all 5 boroughs as requests were received: 238 computers were given away in Manhattan, 77 in the Bronx, 158 in Brooklyn, 70 in Queens, and 2 in Staten Island.



The holiday season is here and many people will be gathering with family and friends to celebrate the past year and look forward to the next. Some families might struggle this winter to make ends meet and to put enough food on the table. Help is available. As part of the wide array of programs available on ACCESS NYC, New Yorkers can get valuable information on food and nutrition programs by visiting www.nyc.gov/accessnyc.

On ACCESS NYC you can get information and pre-screen for the following programs:

- **Food Stamps** provides support to low-income working families, elderly, and the disabled to increase their ability to purchase food
- **Commodity Supplemental Food Program** offers free nutritious meals to eligible women, infants, children, and seniors over 60 years old
- **Women, Infant, and Children (WIC)** is a supplemental program that provides nutritious foods and formula to low-income pregnant or breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to age 5

Food and Nutrition Programs

- **School Meals** provides free or reduced priced lunch for eligible children in public, charter, and private schools

In addition to pre-screening and information, New Yorkers can print an application for Food Stamps, a WIC referral form and can also apply online for School Meals.

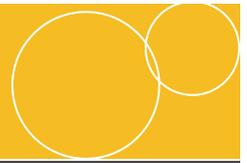
Usage Statistics

The most popular application on ACCESS NYC is Food Stamps, with over 14,000 applications downloaded to date.

Over 6,200 referral forms have been downloaded for Women, Infant, and Children (WIC).

School Meals is the 1st program on ACCESS NYC that New Yorkers can complete and submit electronically directly from our Web site. As of December 6th, over 4,600 applications were submitted on ACCESS NYC, for more than 6,000 children.

To find the nearest food pantry or to donate at a local food bank please call 311. Visit ACCESS NYC to get information about food programs and 30 additional benefits to help make this season easier.



ACCESS NYC Holds Trainings At HHS-Connect Office



HHS-Connect has a new training room at 4 Metrotech Center in Brooklyn that will be utilized to conduct hands-on ACCESS NYC training sessions as well as training for other HHS-Connect projects. The training room is fully equipped with brand new computers and can seat 24 people. Additionally, the training room has a drop down screen, an overhead projector, and a central printer .

Starting in January 2009 ACCESS NYC will be conducting monthly staff trainings at this site on the 3rd Thursday of each month. These trainings will be open to all interested parties including community based organizations, City agencies, and computer giveaway awardees. To participate in a monthly training email accessnyc@hhsconnect.nyc.gov.

In addition to the monthly trainings, the Training and Outreach team will also offer customized training sessions for your organization in the HHS-Connect computer lab. If your organization is interested in receiving hands-on training, but does not have a computer lab, ACCESS NYC can accommodate your needs by scheduling a private training

session here at this site. This is a great opportunity for all organizations that have staff throughout the five boroughs and need a central training location. If your organization is interested in scheduling a private training session for your staff please send the request to accessnyc@hhsconnect.nyc.gov.

On Thursday, December 18th ACCESS NYC will be hosting 2 hands-on training sessions at 4 Metrotech Center, Brooklyn.

There are 2 sessions:

Session 1: 10am to 12pm

Session 2: 2pm to 4pm

If you are interested in attending the ACCESS NYC training on December 18th, please contact Sara Schanzer at sschanzer@hhsconnect.nyc.gov.

Please include the names of all staff attending with the name of the organization, which session you would like to attend, as well as email addresses for each participant.

School Meals Online Application

The School Meals Online application has continued to be a valuable resource for families during the past month. Parents looking for a convenient easy way to apply for School Meals utilized our online application to get free and reduced-price meals for their child(ren). Over 4,600 applications have been submitted online for over 6,200 children. The online application will continue to be available throughout the school year as families need to submit new or updated applications.



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