

**HRA COMMISSIONER DOAR ANNOUNCES 13 PERCENT
INCREASE IN MONTHLY FOOD STAMP ALLOWANCE FOR NEW
YORKERS ENROLLED IN THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM**



New York, April 1, 2009 – New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA) Commissioner Robert Doar announced today that New Yorkers enrolled in the Food Stamp Program will receive a 13 percent increase in their monthly food stamp grant amounts. The funding is provided by the economic stimulus legislation, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act recently passed by Congress and signed by President Obama. This increase brings an additional \$25 million a month to food stamp households, making the total food stamp benefits issued monthly to New Yorkers to more than \$200 million.

“This is the first of the stimulus money to reach individuals, many of whom are struggling working New Yorkers who will now get a little more help to buy food to feed their families,” said HRA Commissioner Doar. “We are grateful to the HRA staff members who are working hard to get this help to their fellow New Yorkers.”

The distribution of the budget increase will begin today, on April 1st, and will be staggered over two weeks so that by mid-April all households receiving food stamp assistance will have received their regular grants as well as the new increase. New Yorkers can take advantage of the benefit immediately by using their existing Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) debit card. No new cards or passwords are required.

The amount of the increase varies by family size and household circumstance. The USDA estimates that a family of three will receive a monthly increase of \$63, while a family of four will receive a monthly increase of \$80.

Under Mayor Bloomberg, New York City has been a leader in improving the accessibility of the Food Stamp Program for working New Yorkers. More than 1.39 million New Yorkers are enrolled in the Food Stamp Program—an increase of 74 percent since 2002. While maintaining the integrity of the Program, the biggest area of growth—an increase of 243 percent since the beginning of the Administration—has been among working New Yorkers who rely on food stamps to supplement their incomes and do not receive Cash Assistance or Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

###

Contact: Barbara Brancaccio 212-331-6199