# **New York City Rent Freeze Program**

Tenant Access Portal (NYC TAP)
Tenant Representative User Guide



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#### I. Introduction

The New York City Tenant Access Portal (NYC TAP) provides important tools and information for tenant representatives and tenants who are enrolled in New York City's Rent Freeze Programs, also known as the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) programs.

We are rolling out NYC TAP in phases. The current version will allow tenants and their representatives to access benefit information such as:

- Application status
- Benefit amounts
- Benefit expiration date
- Benefit information for applications
- Tax Abatement Credit (TAC) reports
- Status of notices
- Household members
- Appeal status
- Missing documentation requests
- Contact phone number(s) or email address
- Update tenant representative information
- Upload additional documents

In subsequent phases, users of the site will be able to submit initial and renewal applications online and download copies of notices.

# II. New York City Tenant Access Portal Link

You must log in to NYC TAP through your NYC.ID account.

The first step is to click on the NYC TAP link below. You will immediately be redirected to NYC.ID. Once you have logged in to NYC.ID, you will automatically be directed back to NYC TAP.

www.nyc.gov/nyctap

# III. Logging In to NYC TAP With Your NYC.ID

You must log in to NYC.ID to access NYC TAP. NYC.ID is New York City's free digital identity, available to City residents, providing the means to access NYC online services.

After you've clicked on the link above, there are three ways to log in:

- **Option 1:** If you have an existing NYC.ID, sign in using your email and password in the fields shown within the blue box.
- **Option 2:** If you don't have a NYC.ID account, you can log into NYC.ID by a social media link shown within the red box.
- **Option 3:** If you don't have a NYC.ID account, you can create one using the "Create Account" link shown within the purple box.

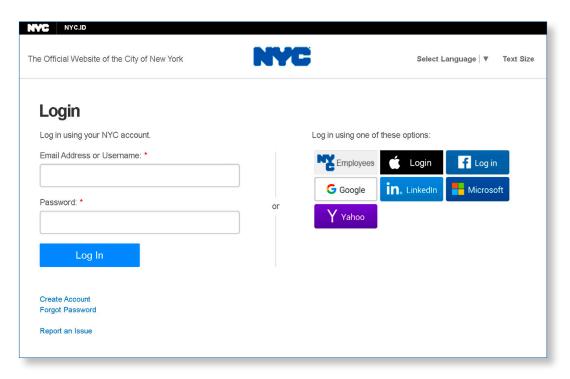
See the following pages for more detail.



#### A. LOGGING IN TO NYC.ID WITH YOUR EXISTING ACCOUNT

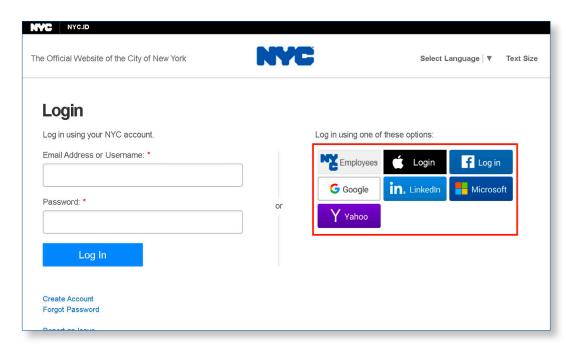
If you have previously created a NYC.ID, you can use it to access NYC TAP. Enter your email address and NYC.ID password, then click the log in button.

You will then be directed to NYC TAP.

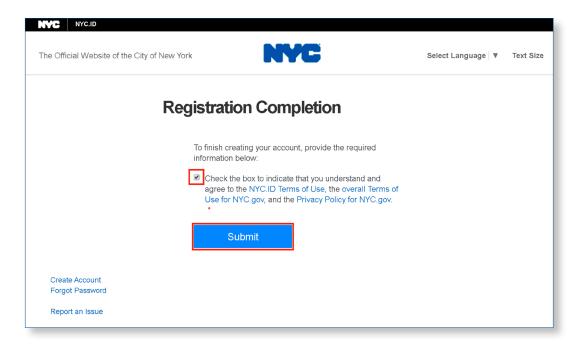


#### B. REGISTERING FOR NYC.ID THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

To register for NYC.ID using your social media account (option #2), click any of the social media logos shown on the screen.



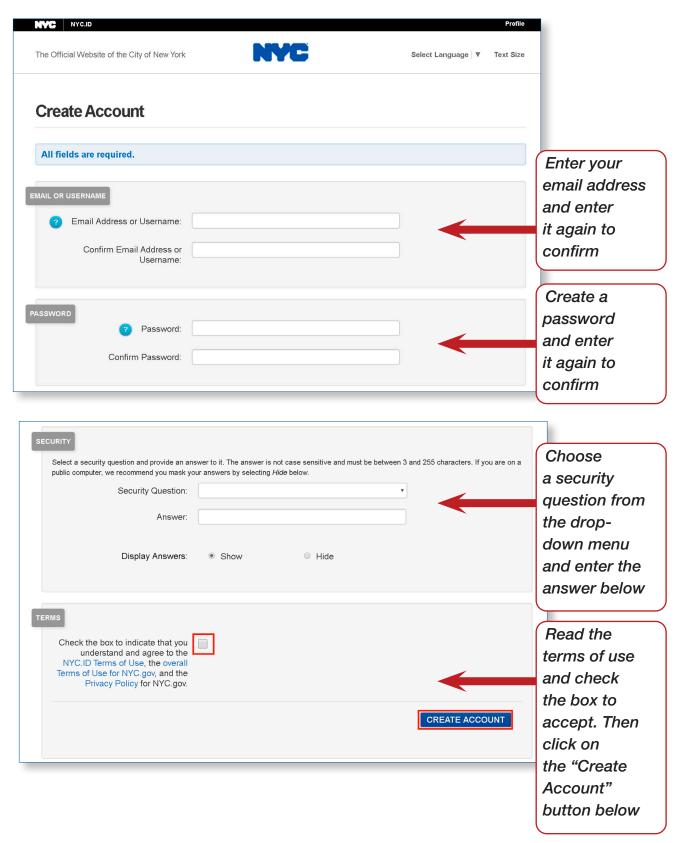
Enter your social media account user name and password. Once validated you will see the following screen to complete your NYC.ID account registration.



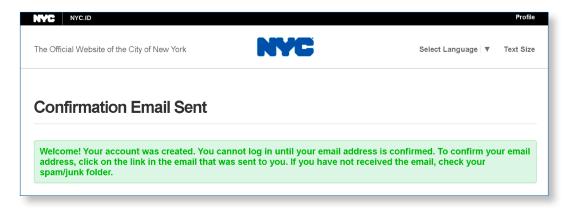
Once you have successfully registered with NYC.ID you will be directed to NYC TAP.

#### C. CREATING A NYC.ID ACCOUNT

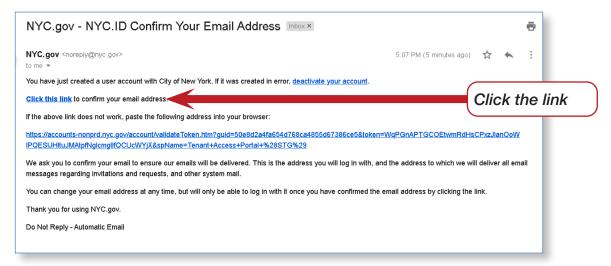
To create a NYC.ID account (option #3), complete the instructions on the following pages.



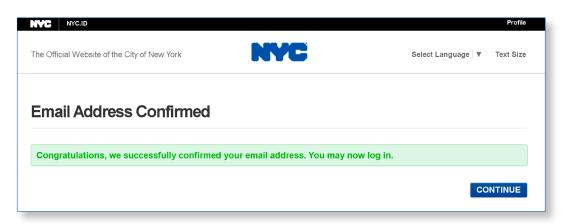
Once you have completed these steps, you should see the following screen, confirming that your account was created and a verification email was sent to your email address. You must then check your email to verify.



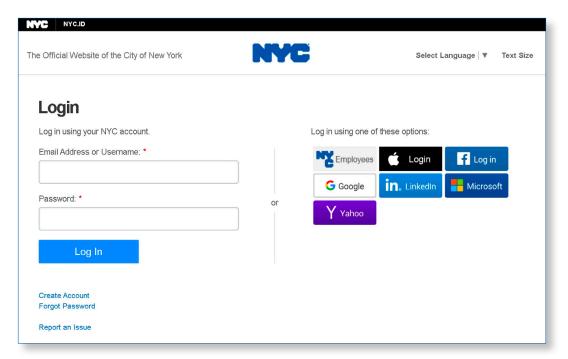
You should see an email similar to the one here. To verify your email address, click on the link indicated.



Once confirmed, you will see the screen below.



After you have confirmed your email account, you will be directed to log into NYC.ID using the email and password you have just created.



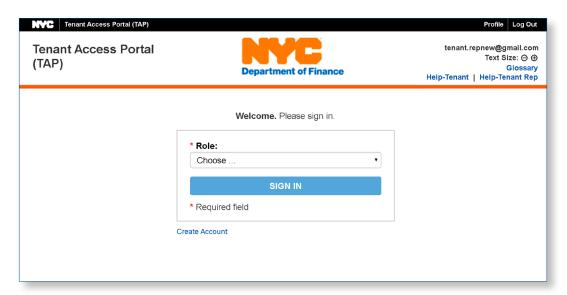
Once you have successfully logged in through NYC.ID you will be directed to NYC TAP. For the first login you will be required to register using the PIN you received in the mail for existing program participants (See IV. Registering for NYC TAP with a PIN.) If you do not have a PIN, you can still register by creating a manual NYC TAP account (See V. Registering for NYC TAP without a PIN).

### IV. Registering for NYC TAP With a PIN

All current benefit participants and their representatives on file with the Department of Finance (DOF) will receive a PIN through the mail. Use the PIN to register by following the steps in this section.

Note: The PIN will expire 90 days after the date on the PIN letter.

If you did not receive a PIN, skip to the next section for instructions on how to register without a PIN.

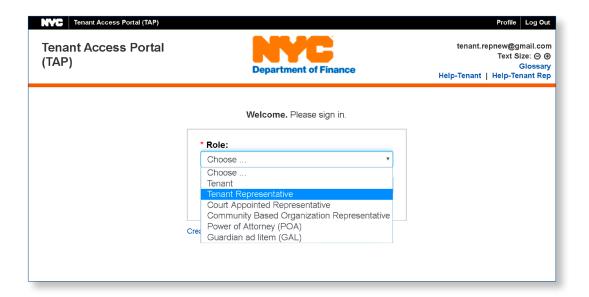


From the dropdown menu, choose the role that best describes the capacity in which you are serving as tenant representative. Your access to the site will be the same regardless of the role you indicate.

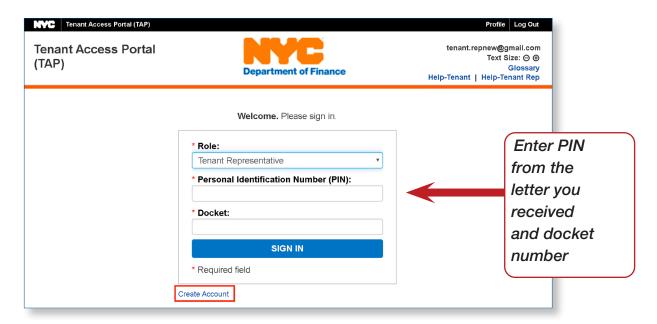
The roles are defined as follows:

- Tenant Representative You represent one or more tenants
- Court Appointed Representative You have been appointed by a court order to represent the tenant
- Community Based Organization Representative You work for an organization that provides assistance to the public renewing and accessing their Rent Freeze benefit
- Power of Attorney You have been legally appointed as a Power of Attorney for a tenant
- Guardian ad litem You have been legally appointed as a guardian for a tenant

If you are uncertain of your appropriate role, choose "Tenant Representative." You will then be asked to enter in your PIN number and the docket number for the tenant you represent.



If you represent more than one tenant or you received multiple PIN letters, choose one PIN letter and enter one docket number. If you received multiple PIN letters it means that your name and address may have multiple variations in the Rent Freeze Program database. Your profile will be pre-populated with all the tenants you represent once you have successfully logged in. If there are tenants that are not listed in your profile, you can add them manually after you have logged in.

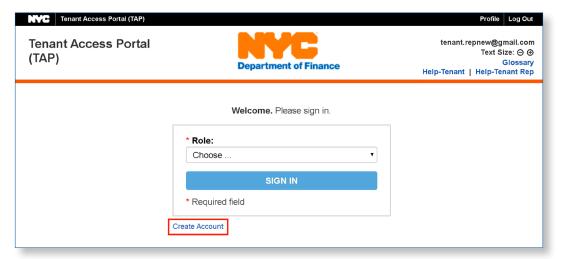


A docket number is a unique number that can be all numeric or alpha-numeric. Docket numbers are printed on all notices that the Rent Freeze Program mails to tenants and their representatives. Refer to a notice you received to identify a valid docket number.

If you are having difficulty registering your account using a PIN, click "Create Account" and skip to the next section to create an account without a PIN.

# V. Registering for NYC TAP Without a PIN

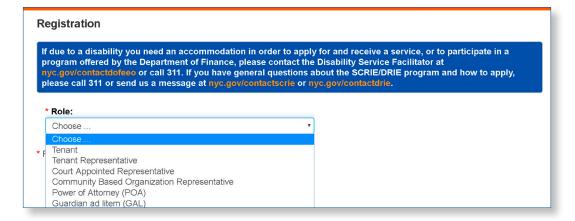
If you do not have a PIN and would like to register for NYC TAP, you can click on "Create Account."



From the dropdown menu, choose the role that best describes the capacity in which you are serving as tenant representative. Your access to the site will be the same regardless of the role you indicate.

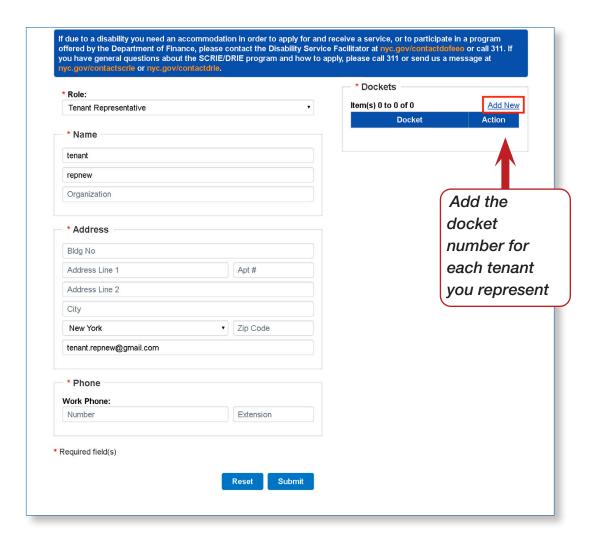
The roles are defined as follows:

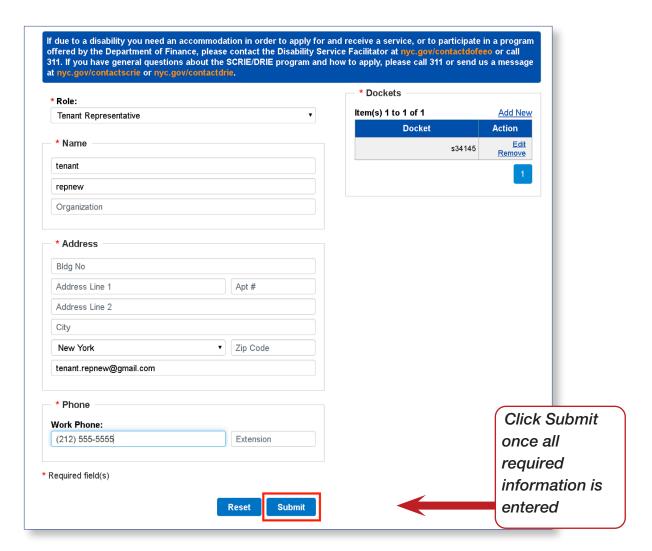
- Tenant Representative You represent one or more tenants
- Court Appointed Representative You have been appointed by a court order to represent the tenant
- Community Based Organization Representative You work for an organization that assists the public to enroll for and renew their Rent Freeze benefit
- Power of Attorney You have been legally appointed as a Power of Attorney for a tenant
- Guardian ad litem You have been legally appointed as a guardian for a tenant



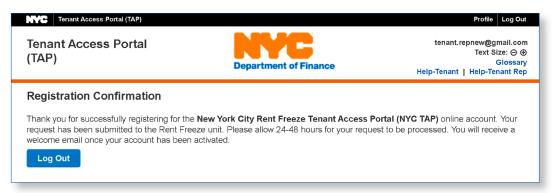
The following is the registration page. Fill in all the required information including your name, address, phone number, and docket number(s). If you do not add at least one docket number, you will not be able to complete the registration. Click Submit once all required fields are completed.

Note: Your registration may not be approved by DOF if the tenant has not listed you as their representative.



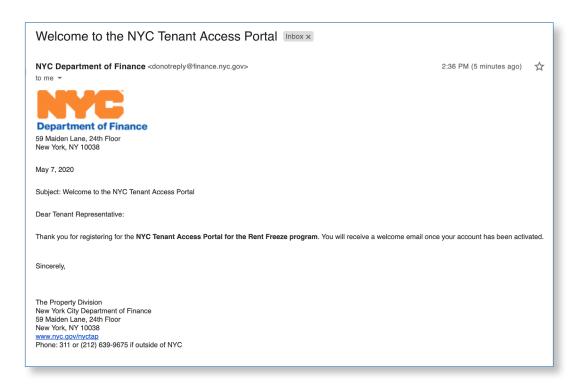


Once the registration page is complete, you will receive a confirmation. You will not have access to NYC TAP until your registration is approved by DOF. This can take between 24 – 48 hours.



Once your registration is reviewed by DOF, you will receive a follow up email. If you registration is denied, you will be given a reason for the denial.

# Sample of approval email:

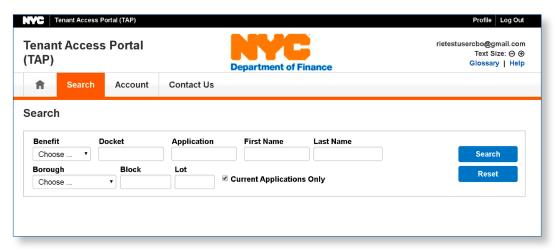


# VI. NYC TAP Application Navigation

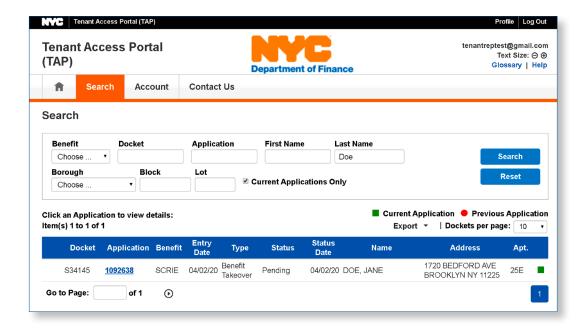
You will see three tabs once you access the NYC TAP home page: Search, Account, and Contact Us.

The "Search" tab enables reps that represent multiple tenants to search for a particular tenant. This is the default tab when logging into NYC TAP.

Note: If you simply click the "Search" button without entering any information in the search criteria fields (all the fields are blank), you will see the applications associated with all the tenants you represent.

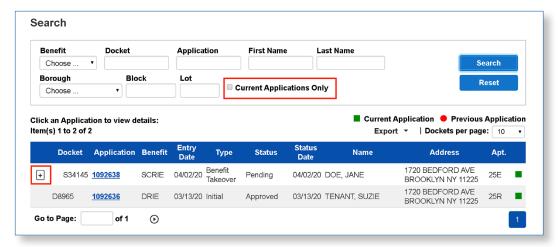


Below is an example of a "Search" result.

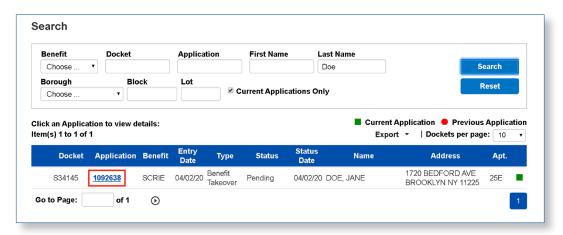


If you uncheck the "Current Applications Only" box and click "Search," the information for current and prior applications will populate.

Prior applications can be viewed in the search results by clicking on the plus (+) button next to the docket number.



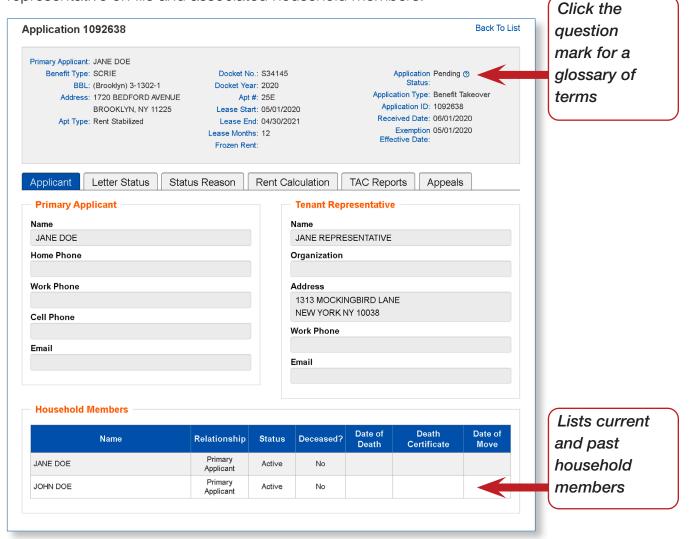
Click the application number in the search result to access additional application details.



Clicking the application number link will display a page with the tenant's demographic information and the following six tabs: Applicant, Letter Status, Status Reason, Rent Calculation, TAC Reports, and Appeals.

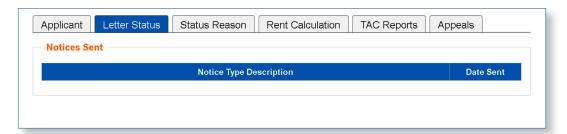
#### **APPLICANT**

The "Applicant" tab provides application status information, information on the tenant representative on file and associated household members.



#### LETTER STATUS

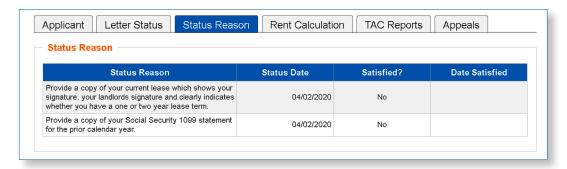
The "Letter Status" tab provides information on the type of notice and the date that the notice was sent by DOF.



#### STATUS REASON

The "Status Reason" tab shows a detailed explanation of the status of your application, if that status is "Pending," "Revoked," or "Denied." It also shows the date the status was updated, and whether or not the particular condition indicated has been satisfied.

Below is an example of the "Status Reason" tab for a pending application. The application is pending because DOF has not received the requested documents. The "Status Date" is the date the status was updated. Once a document has been received and reviewed, the "Satisfied" column will change to "Yes." "Date Satisfied" is the date DOF determines you have satisfied the requirement listed in the "Status Reason."



#### RENT CALCULATION

The "Rent Calculation" tab provides a summary of the tax abatement credit (TAC) to the landlord. There may not be any information on this screen if the application status is "pending."

Here are some term definitions:

Renewal Legal Rent - The tenant's current rent

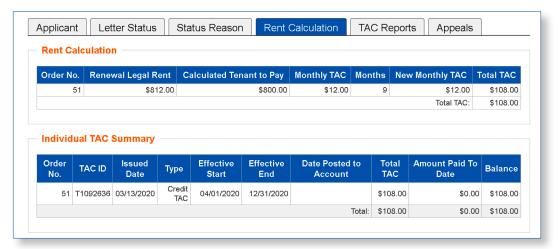
Calculated Tenant to Pay – The tenant's frozen rent

Monthly TAC - The monthly tax abatement credit allocated to the landlord for this unit

**New Monthly TAC –** Any adjustments to the abatement credit made after the benefit was approved

Total TAC - The total tax abatement credit for the period indicated under "Months"

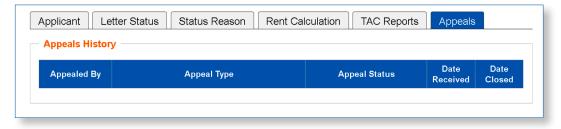
The "Individual TAC Summary" will indicate credits that were posted to the landlord's property tax account as well as the balance remaining to be transferred for any future periods.



The "TAC Reports" tab allows you to download a copy of the Tax Abatement Credit summary.



The "Appeals" tab will have the following information related to any appeals DOF has received.

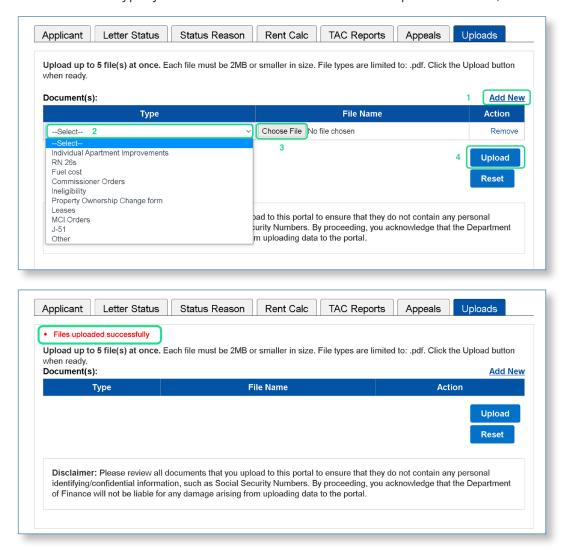


#### **UPLOADS**

**Upload tab:** Allows you to submit additional documentation for a currently approved or pending application. Your document must be a .pdf file and must be 2MB or less.

To upload a document, (1) click on "Add New" (2) from the dropdown menu, select a document type\* (3) click browse to select a PDF file from your files, and repeat steps 1-3 to add additional documents (4) click "Upload." You will see the message "File(s) uploaded successfully" when completed.

\*If your current application status is pending additional documentation or you do not see the document type you wish to submit listed in the dropdown menu, choose "Other."



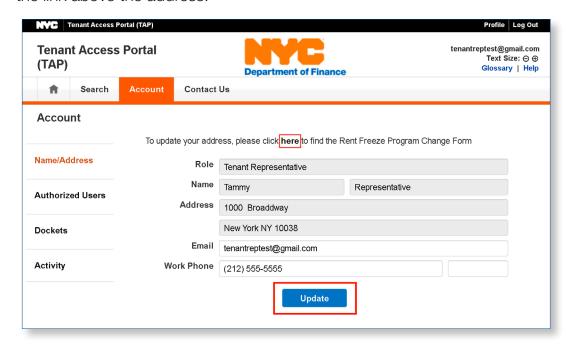
If you do not have a PDF file of your document or your file is over the 2MB limit and you cannot use the upload feature, you may submit your documents by mail. For pending documents, mail in a copy of your documents along with a copy of the "pending" notice you received in the mail. For adjustment requests, submit your documents, along with a TAC adjustment form, which can be downloaded from the Rent Freeze website, www.nyc.gov/rentfreeze, or can be obtained by calling 311.

#### VII. NYC TAP Account Maintenance Tab

This screen consists of four sub-menus: Name/Address, Authorized Users, Dockets, and Activity.

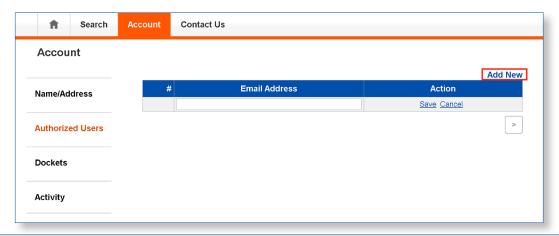
#### NAME/ADDRESS

You can use the "Name/Address" screen to update your email address or phone number(s). You may add or edit the information then click the Update button to submit the change. To submit a change of address request, you can access the form by clicking on the link above the address.

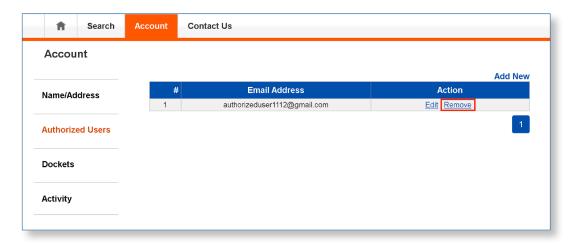


#### **AUTHORIZED USERS**

"Authorized Users" can be added if you work in an organization that assists the same clients. You may add an authorized user by using the "Add New" link, providing the email address, and clicking "Save." An email with log in instructions will be sent to the authorized user. The authorized user will have the same access as the tenant representative.



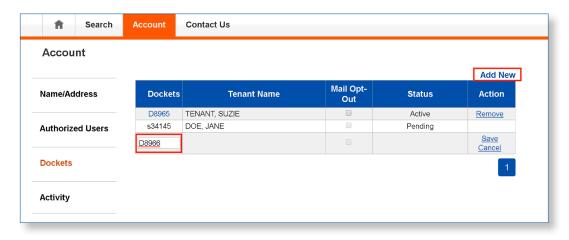
If an authorized user leaves the organization or no longer needs access to application information, they can also be removed from this tab by clicking the "Remove" link.



#### **DOCKETS**

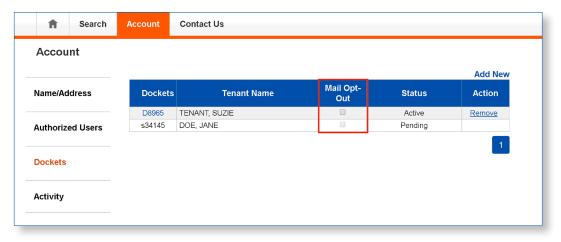
The "Dockets" tab will list all of the dockets associated with the account. This is where you can access your tenant's information and make changes to their profile (phone number(s) and email address only).

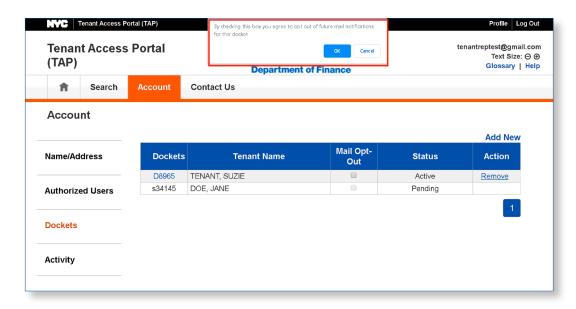
You can add new dockets by clicking on the "add new" link, typing in the docket number, and clicking save.

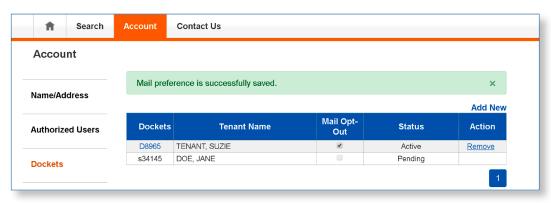


#### MAIL OPT-OUT

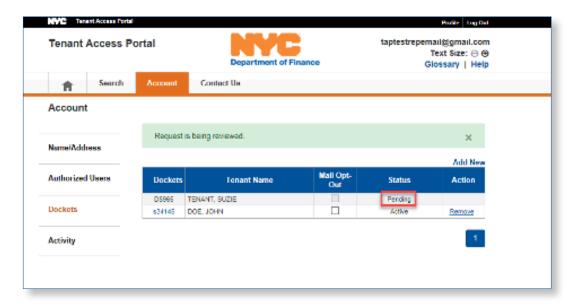
If you would like to opt out of receiving notices by US Postal Service mail for one or more of the tenants you represent, you can do so by checking the mail opt out box. A confirmation message will be displayed on the screen.



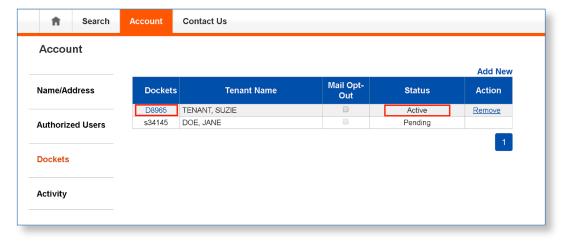




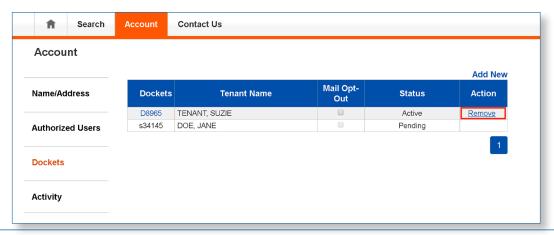
Access to newly added docket(s) is "Pending" until the docket is approved by DOF. The status of requests is indicated in the "Status" column.



When a docket is approved by DOF the status will be updated to "Active" and the tenant information will be accessible.



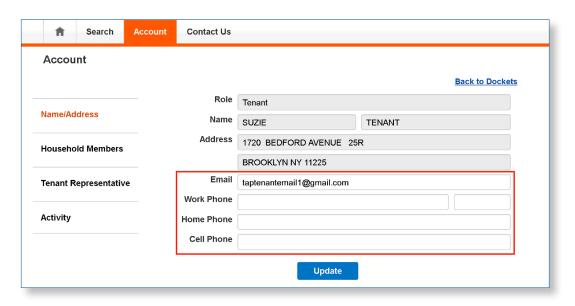
You may also remove any tenant that you no longer represent by using the "Remove" link as indicated below.



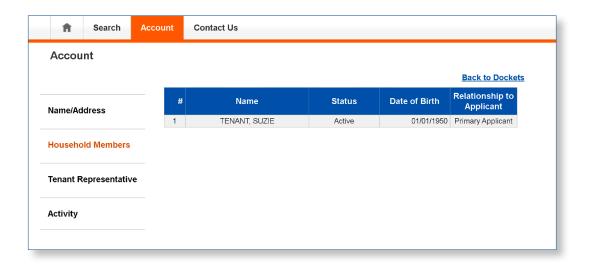
#### Clicking on the Docket Number

The docket number is a hyperlink to the tenant's name/address, household members, tenant representative, and NYC TAP activity information.

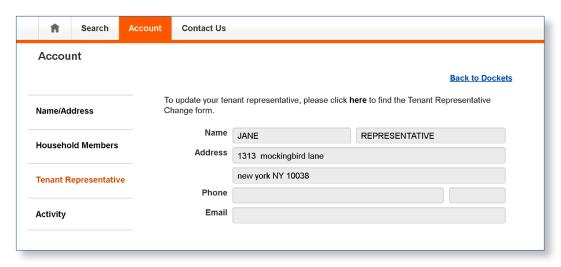
In the "Name/Address" tab representatives can update the tenant's email and various phone numbers.



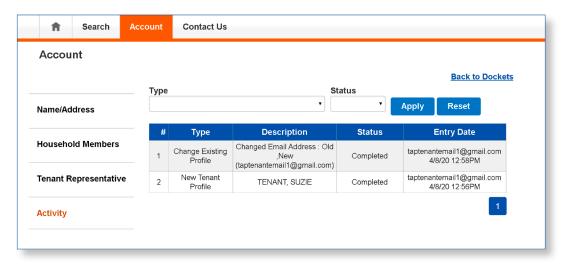
The "Household Member" tab provides a list of household members associated with the docket.



The "Tenant Representative" tab will display the tenant representative on file for the tenant.

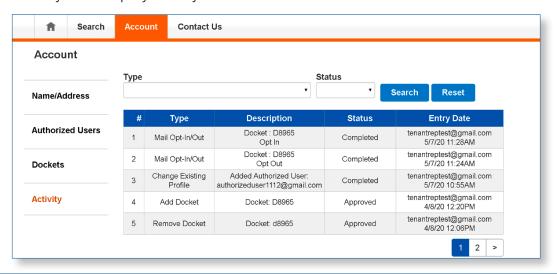


If the tenant has an NYC TAP account, the "Activity" tab will display the tenant's NYC TAP activity.



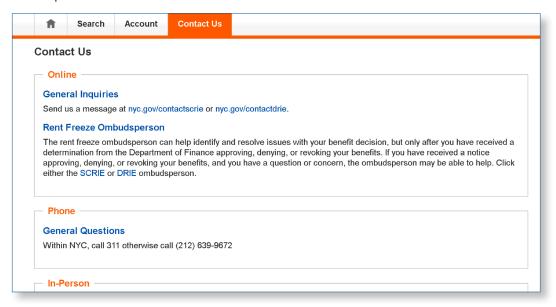
#### **ACTIVITY**

"Activity" will display all of your activities in NYC TAP.



#### **CONTACT US**

Click the "Contact Us" to get help with Rent Freeze Program questions online, by phone, and in person.



# VIII. Helpful Links

#### **TEXT SIZE**

Click the "Text Size" plus (+) and minus (-) buttons shown below, which appear at the top of each screen in NYC TAP, to enlarge or decrease the text size.



#### **GLOSSARY**

Click the "Glossary" link for the definitions of some of the terms used in NYC TAP.



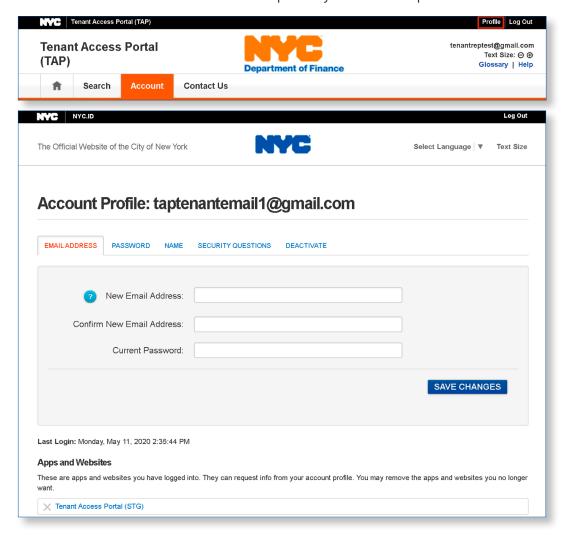
#### **HELP**

Click the "Help" link for NYC TAP User Guides.



#### **PROFILE**

Click the "Profile" link to review and update your NYC.ID profile.



#### LOG OUT

Click "Log Out" to log out of NYC TAP.



# Department of Finance

If due to a disability you need an accommodation in order to apply forand receive a service or participate in a program offered by the Department of Finance, please contact the Disability Service Facilitator at www.nyc.gov/contactdofeeo or by calling 311.

