



OFFICE OF FAITH & NONPROFIT DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

December 2025 Newsletter

Greetings and welcome back! Please use this newsletter for information on upcoming events, funding opportunities, and resources to ensure your organizations can thrive.

A December Dispatch: New York State Bringing Hope & Help



The December 2025 OFNDS e-newsletter welcomes New Yorkers and serves as a resource hub for events, funding opportunities, and support for faith-based and nonprofit organizations. It highlights nonprofit initiatives across New York State, including assistance with holiday meals, coat drives, and community pantry services.

The newsletter features a list of state and partner grant opportunities, promotes upcoming meetings (like the Not-for-Profit Contracting Advisory Committee), and showcases capacity-building resources such as the NYS Office of Language Access. It concludes with important interfaith dates and encourages submissions for events and joining the faith-leader database.



Highlighting Nonprofits In All Regions of New York State

This month's newsletter highlights nonprofits that specifically provide food banks, winter relief, and shelter services within their region.



Region: Capital Region | Saratoga County

Capital Region Toys for Tots distributes thousands of new, unwrapped toys to children across 14 counties to ensure every child has something special during the holidays. They work directly with local agencies, shelters, and community groups to identify families in need. Volunteers can help with toy sorting, packing, and distribution in late November and December.

Donors can contribute toys or give online.

Ph: 518-509-4277 |

Email: info@capitalregiontoysfortots.org



Region: Finger Lakes | Ontario County

Finger Lakes Treasure Trove operates a community pantry and nonprofit thrift store supporting families facing hardship. They have a variety of items available, including canned goods, dried foods, packaged meals, snacks, drinks, personal care products, diapers, baby food, and more. They also have four rooms full of low-cost items, including clothing, housewares, books, and toys that support their mission.

fingerlakestreasuretrove.org

Email: hello@fingerlakestreasuretrove.org



Region: Western New York | Erie County

As winter arrives, Buffalo City Mission continues its vital work providing warm meals, emergency shelter, and compassionate care to individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Their holiday initiatives offer not only food and winter essentials but also hope, dignity, and a sense of belonging during a difficult season.

PH: 716-383-5601



Region: Mid-Hudson | Westchester County

Family Services of Westchester supports children, teens, and families with mental health services, youth programs, and aging support. Each December, their "Holiday Adopt-A-Family" program matches donors with families facing hardship to provide gifts, warm clothing, and essentials. They also distribute holiday gift bundles to seniors who may be isolated. Donors and volunteers help deliver joy and stability during winter stress.

Email: info@fsw.org | PH: 914-937-2320



Highlighting Nonprofits in All Regions of New York State

This month's newsletter highlights nonprofits that specifically provide food banks, winter relief, and shelter services within their region.



Region: Mohawk Valley | Chemung County

United Way of the Mohawk Valley collaborates with local agencies to support families in Oneida and Herkimer Counties. Their programs, including the Emergency Food Response Fund, Ride United, 2-1-1 Mid-York, and the Backpack Program, provide year-round assistance. In December, they will also introduce the Mini-Grant Series to fund initiatives that have a lasting community impact, embodying a full-circle approach to helping families thrive throughout the year.

Email: sarahm@unitedwaymv.org | PH: 680-323-1141



Region: North Country | Warren County

North Country Ministry serves individuals in rural Adirondack communities with food, clothing, crisis intervention, and advocacy. Their "Giving Tree Program" connects generous donors with families who submit wish lists for children and teens. They also provide emergency support as heating costs and utility stress rise in winter. Volunteers can assist with wrapping, sorting, and deliveries.

Email: info@northcountryministry.com | PH: 518-623-2829



Region: Long Island | Suffolk County

Island Harvest is Long Island's largest hunger-relief organization, serving families, seniors, and veterans. Their Holiday Campaign collects food donations and funds to provide turkeys and all the trimmings so every family can celebrate the holidays with hope and dignity. Individuals and groups can host food drives, drop of turkey donations, or sponsor a holiday meal for as little as \$35 per family.

Visit www.islandharvest.org or PH 631-873-4775 to learn more and give a gift today.



Region: New York City | NYC

New York Cares is the largest volunteer network in NYC, organizing thousands of service projects each year. Their iconic Winter Coat Drive ensures New Yorkers facing poverty have warm clothing during freezing months — distributing more than 200,000 coats annually. Community members can donate coats or funds, and companies can host coat-collection drives. They also organise holiday volunteer opportunities such as toy distributions and meal packing.

Email: info@newyorkcares.org | PH: 212-228-5000



Highlighting Nonprofits in All Regions of New York State

This month's newsletter highlights nonprofits that specifically provide food banks, winter relief, and shelter services within their region.



Region: Central New York | Onondaga County

Since 1887, the Rescue Mission has been a beacon of compassion in Syracuse and surrounding counties - offering emergency shelter, warm meals, clothing, and case management to individuals experiencing homelessness. Delivering thousands of holiday meals, distribute hygiene kits and winter gear, and provide mobile outreach to those living outdoors. The Rescue Mission serves over 10,000 youth, families, and individuals yearly. Every donation and purchase at their 20 Thrifty Shopper stores directly support these life-changing programs - 100% stays local to Central New York.

Ph: 315-472-6251 | Email: info@rmsyr.org



Region: Southern Tier | Steuben County

United Way of the Southern Tier supports families by strengthening basic needs, senior support, and youth development. For the holiday season, they are leading the Senior Stocking Stuffers Drive, which provides essential items and small gifts to isolated older adults so they can feel remembered and supported during the winter months. Community members can donate items, volunteer to assemble stockings, or continue financially to help bring holiday warmth to seniors across the region.

Email: info@uwst.org | Phone: 607-936-3753



NOVEMBER IN REVIEW

- ❖ Governor Hochul Protects Energy Discounts Amid Federal Cuts: Governor Hochul announced emergency action to ensure New Yorkers enrolled in the State's Energy Affordability Program continue receiving monthly utility bill discounts, despite federal funding for the Home Energy Assistance Program being cut off by Washington Republicans. The Governor directed utility companies to maintain EAP benefits and urged more eligible households to enroll, while reinforcing state laws that prevent winter shutoffs for vulnerable residents. These measures aim to shield low-income families from rising heating costs as cold weather sets in, while calling on Congress to restore critical federal support.
- ❖ Governor Hochul Provides Emergency Food Aid to SUNY Campuses: Governor Hochul announced \$550,000 in emergency funding for food pantries at SUNY community colleges to combat rising food insecurity caused by the prolonged federal government shutdown. This investment builds on over \$106 million already allocated to hunger relief efforts and supports students across all 30 SUNY community colleges with restocked supplies and expanded services. The action reinforces the Governor's broader emergency response to protect vulnerable New Yorkers and ensure access to basic needs during the ongoing crisis.
- ❖ Governor Hochul Announces SUNY Enrollment Growth for Third Year: Governor Hochul announced that SUNY has achieved enrollment growth for the third consecutive year, with gains across all sectors for the first time since 2007–2009. The increase is driven in part by the launch of the SUNY Reconnect program, which has enrolled over 5,600 adult learners since Fall 2025 and expanded access to free community college for New Yorkers aged 25–55. These gains reflect the Governor's historic investments in higher education, including increased operating aid, expanded financial assistance, and support for student success initiatives like ASAP|ACE.
- ❖ Governor Hochul Signs Law Eliminating Cost-Sharing for Asthma Inhalers: Governor Hochul signed legislation requiring all insurance policies in New York to cover at least one rescue and one maintenance asthma inhaler without any cost-sharing, eliminating co-pays, deductibles, and coinsurance for those essential medications. This action will improve access to life-saving treatment for over 1.4 million adults and hundreds of thousands of children living with asthma across the state. By removing financial barriers to critical care, the law is expected to reduce emergency visits and support better long-term health outcomes.
- ❖ Governor Hochul Urges New Yorkers to Shop Small and Strengthen Local Economies This Holiday Season: Governor Hochul encouraged New Yorkers to support small businesses during the holiday season and beyond, emphasizing their vital role in job creation, innovation, and community development. With small businesses making up 98 percent of all businesses in the state, the Governor highlighted programs that expand access to capital, technical assistance, and promotional opportunities, including the Main Street Capital Loan Fund, Taste NY, and the LINC program. By shopping locally and choosing New York-made products, residents help fuel economic growth, preserve neighborhood character, and uplift entrepreneurs across every region of the state.



Upcoming Funding Opportunities for New York State Grants

- NYS Department of Health
RFA 20667 - Creating Healthy Schools and Communities
 - The Deadline is December 23rd, 2025
- NYS Office of Children and Family Services - Settlement House Programs
SOI1212-Settlement-House.pdf
 - The deadline is January 13, 2026, at 5pm
- NYS Council on the Arts
FY 2026 Capital Projects Opportunity Fund
 - The deadline is January 13, 2026, at 5pm
- The New York Landmarks Conservancy
Sacred Sites Fund Grant Criteria | New York Landmarks Conservancy
 - There are two grant rounds per year, with submission deadlines of January 15th and June 1st.
- Connect Kids to Parks Field Trip Grant Program
Connect Kids - NYS Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
 - There are two grant rounds per year, with submission deadlines of January 15th and June 1st.
Please note that Connect Kids Applications are accepted on a rolling basis in the order they're received



UPCOMING EVENTS

Behind the Seal:

Inside New York State Agencies and Initiatives

Featuring the New York State Department of State's Office of Consumer Protection

DECEMBER

17

7:00 PM

Under the leadership of Governor Kathy Hochul, the Office of African American Affairs presents *Behind the Seal* — a briefing series offering an inside look at New York State's leading agencies and initiatives.

In recognition of the holiday season, this session features the New York State Office of Consumer Affairs, highlighting programs and initiatives that protect and empower New York's consumers.

- Learn about consumer protections and resources available during the holiday season
- Hear directly from agency leadership
- Discover ways to stay informed, safe and connected



REGISTER AT:

<https://bit.ly/InsideDOSDCP>

Behind the Seal:

Inside New York State Agencies and Initiatives

Featuring The Office of Victim Services

JANUARY

15

6:30 PM

Under the leadership of Governor Kathy Hochul, the Office of African American Affairs presents *Behind the Seal* — a briefing series offering an inside look at New York State's leading agencies and initiatives.

This session highlights the New York State Office of Victim Services, showcasing programs and initiatives that provide critical assistance to victims of crime and their families.

- Learn about statewide resources available to crime victims
- Hear directly from agency leadership
- Discover ways to connect and collaborate



REGISTER AT:

<https://bit.ly/InsideNYSOVS>



UPCOMING EVENTS

The Final 2025 Not-for-Profit Contracting Advisory Committee (NFPCAC)

Thursday, December 11, 2025 from 12 pm – 1:30 pm via Zoom webinar, and also in person at our New York City and Albany locations, as such:

IN-PERSON MEETING LOCATIONS:

- NYC - 919 Third Avenue at East 55th/56th Streets, 45th Floor
- Albany - State Capitol, 2nd Floor (Conference Room #214-2)

To attend the meeting via ZOOM: Please register for this meeting in advance using this registration link:

https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_pRozzVuhS367r54yx_tGqw

(After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar) - To attend the meeting in person: Please confirm for either the New York City or Albany location (above) via [THIS](#) email. Your name must be added to the sign-in sheet, and building security system, so that we can secure seating.

[HERE](#) is the meeting agenda, for your reference. This information will also be provided on our website New York State Nonprofit Unit (ny.gov).



UPCOMING EVENTS



DAVIS CENTER AT THE HARLEM MEER



SKATE SEASON AT THE GOTTESMAN RINK



Introducing the Gottesman Rink

Located in the heart of Central Park's north end, the Davis Center at the Harlem Meer serves as a vibrant community hub, offering a dynamic lineup of winter ice-skating and hockey programs designed to inspire, educate, and connect with New Yorkers of all ages and backgrounds.

From first-time skaters to lifelong hockey enthusiasts, our seasonal ice programming is built on the values of inclusivity, learning, and community building—all set against the iconic backdrop of Central Park.



Community Skate

Join us for a fun, family-friendly ice-skating experience for all ages and abilities! For your safety, we recommend bringing a helmet. Helmets will not be available to rent.

PRICING

	Peak	Off-Peak
Adult (ages 17+)	\$10	\$5
Child (ages 4-16)	\$5	\$5
Child (3 and under)	Free	Free

Peak Hours:

- Monday–Friday, 5:00 pm–11:00 pm.
- All day Saturday–Sunday; public-school holiday/vacation days.

Off-Peak Hours: Monday–Friday, 7:00 am–5:00 pm.

*Skate sessions range from 1-2 hours.
Session length will vary based on day and time.
Check our calendar for daily session information.*

ADD-ONS

- Lock Purchase: \$5
- Skate Rental: \$10
- Skate Aids: \$10
- Skate Sharpening: \$15

Programs and schedules are subject to change. Be sure to check centralparknyc.org/davis before your visit for the latest information.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Learn to Skate: Basic Skills 1-8

The Davis Center’s Learn to Skate program offers group lessons for every age and skill level—from tots to adults—in a relaxed and supportive setting. Following the United States Figure Skating Learn to Skate USA curriculum, our program provides a clear progression of skills so skaters can learn at their own pace.

Basic Skills 1–8: Divided into progressive levels, these classes are designed for inexperienced skaters of all ages to build confidence and learn the basic skills of skating.

- Skate rentals are included with six-week sessions and drop-in classes.
- Helmets are not included but encouraged, especially for younger skaters. Helmets will not be available to rent.

Classes are offered in six-week sessions, separated by level; single drop-in classes are based on availability.

PRICING

- **Six-week session:** \$150
- **Single drop-in class:** \$30

My Tot and Me

Join our playful, memory-making program designed for children ages 2-5 and their grown-ups. Build confidence and coordination through games and gentle guidance in these 30-minute sessions.

- Skate rentals are included for children and adults.
- Helmets are not included but encouraged, especially for younger skaters. Helmets will not be available to rent.

Classes are offered in six-week sessions; single drop-in classes are based on availability.

PRICING

- **Six-week session (child and adult):** \$210
- **Single drop-in class (child and adult):** \$40

Freestyle Skating

A space to practice and improve skills with a professional coach or on your own, our Freestyle sessions are designed for advanced skaters who want to elevate their skating or prepare for competition in a focused, supportive environment. Skaters will work on maneuvers, practice and develop programs for competition, and work on skills to pass higher levels of figure skating.

Participants can also take advantage of **private lessons tailored specifically for figure skaters**, which are available for an additional fee during dedicated Freestyle sessions. Please call 212.310.6650 for more information.

Please note: Freestyle sessions have capacity restrictions to ensure there is enough space for all to practice jumps, spins, and routines.

PRICING

- **10-session discount bundle:** \$220
- **Single drop-in session:** \$25

Open Hockey

Stop by for casual, recreational, no-ref pick-up hockey for all players ages 10+. These impromptu games are designed for players who want to skate in a non-competitive environment. Games may be divided into half-ice games depending on players’ ages.

Full gear is required and not available to rent.

PRICING

- \$10 per player; goalies play for free!

Adult Hockey Clinic

Whether you’re new to the ice or looking to refine your game, this five-week hockey clinic is designed for beginner and intermediate players ready to level up.

WHAT’S INCLUDED

- Expert-led instructional sessions
- Focus on skating, agility, shooting, and stickhandling
- High-energy, supportive learning environment

Full gear is required and not available to rent.

Clinics are offered as five-week sessions; single drop-in classes are based on availability.

PRICING

- **Five-week session:** \$200
- **Single drop-in class:** \$45

Adult Hockey League

Ready to compete? Join our Adult Hockey League!

Limited team spots are available—contact us at daviscenter@centralparknyc.org to learn more.

Group Ice Skating

Plan your 2025–2026 group outing at the Davis Center. Enjoy exclusive rates for parties of 20 or more, plus optional catering and on-site support.

PRICING

- Available during Community Skate sessions
- Group rates for 20+ guests
- Customizable catering options
- Dedicated event staff and streamlined check-in

Visit centralparknyc.org/groupform to confirm dates and book your visit.

Groups Under 20: Groups of up to 19 can purchase tickets and rentals through our website at centralparknyc.org/skate.



Sign up for our newsletter to book rink time as soon as it goes live—plus, get updates on winter programs, discounts, and the best ways to explore Central Park’s north end.



RESOURCES FROM OUR PARTNERS AT THE OFFICE FOR NEW AMERICANS ARE AVAILABLE TO YOU

 Department of State
Office for New Americans

KNOW YOUR RESOURCES KNOW YOUR RIGHTS



Resources are available to everyone, including immigrants:
dos.ny.gov/know-your-rights

New Americans Hotline:
 **1-800-566-7636**
 Monday – Friday, 9 AM – 8 PM EST
 MULTI-LINGUAL AND ANONYMOUS

To share information regarding federal government action in New York State:
 ag.ny.gov/federal-actions-form

1/25

ASSISTANCE FOR IMMIGRANTS

FREE SERVICES:

- Legal Assistance
- Naturalization Support
- Community Workshops
- Developmental Disabilities Services
- Mental Health Support
- Learn English
- Job Training



dos.ny.gov/Office-New-Americans

 Department of State
Office for New Americans

For referrals to free immigration-related legal help and other programs, please call the **New Americans Hotline** at:

 **1-800-566-7636**
 Monday – Friday, 9 AM – 8 PM EST
MULTI-LINGUAL AND ANONYMOUS

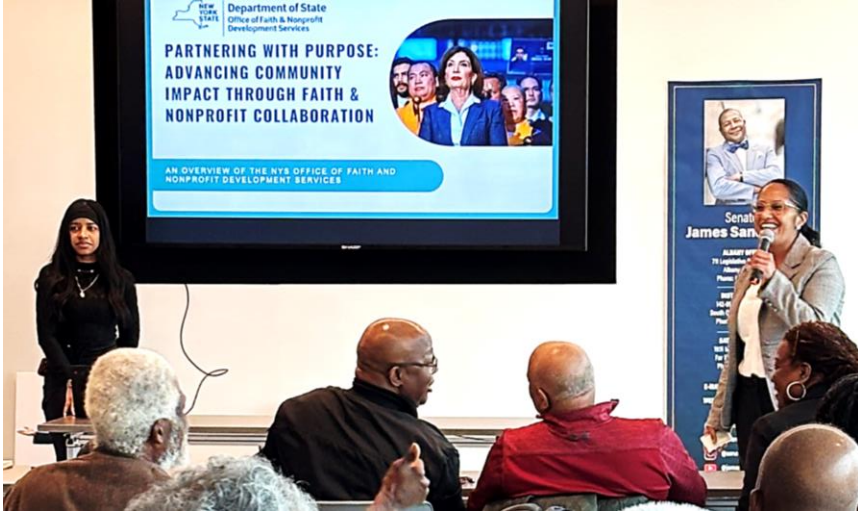
 Department of State
Office for New Americans

dos.ny.gov/Office-New-Americans

VISIT THE OFFICE FOR NEW AMERICANS' WEBSITE
AT <https://dos.ny.gov/office-new-americans>



Recent Highlights





Connect with us!



If you are part of a faith-based or nonprofit organization, [please fill out this form.](#)

Important Interfaith Dates in December

- December 3: Feast of St. Francis Xavier (Christian/Catholic)
- December 8: Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Christian/Catholic)
- December 12: Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Christian/Catholic)
- December 14: Hanukkah Begins - December 24: Hanukkah Ends at Nightfall (Jewish)
- December 25: Christmas (Christian)
- December 26 - Jan. 1: Kwanzaa (Ethnic)

Does your organization have public events coming up?

[Fill out our form](#) to have your event included in our next newsletter.

Need to be added to our database of Faith Leaders?

[Please fill out this form.](#)