



**NOTICE OF BACK TO SCHOOL PAYMENT  
August 2009 /UPSTATE**

Case Number:  
Off./Unit/Worker:

General Telephone No. for  
Questions or Help: 1- 800-342-3009

Notice Date: August 11, 2009

**Amount of Payment: \$**

Dear Recipient:

**Great news!** This notice is to tell you that you are getting a one-time payment to help with back-to-school costs for the children in your household. This payment is \$200 per child and is based on the number of children in your household, who are 3 through 17 years old on August 1, 2009, and in receipt of public assistance or food stamp benefits during July, 2009. Please see "Amount of Payment", above, for the total amount of your payment.

This payment will help your family cope with these tough economic times and help your children start the school year off on the right foot. The Open Society Institute and the Foundation to Promote Open Society are giving \$35 million to New York State enabling the State to get federal matching funds of up to \$140 million as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to make these payments.

**What can I use the money for?**

Back-to-School money can be used to buy items such as books, pencils, pens, notebooks, calculators, backpacks, shoes, school uniforms, pants, shirts, skirts, dresses, and other essential school items.

**How will I be paid the money?**

Your money has been paid directly into your EBT cash account. If you receive food stamp benefits only, you can get the money from your EBT **cash** account using the same EBT card and PIN that you use for your food stamp benefits. This payment can be withdrawn through an ATM or, it can be spent at retail locations where EBT cards are accepted.

**Please note that this payment may expire if your cash account is not accessed within 90 days.** You should check your cash balance so you can use this benefit before it expires. You may check your cash balance free of charge at an ATM, on the Internet at [www.ebtaccount.jpmorgan.com](http://www.ebtaccount.jpmorgan.com), or by calling the EBT Helpline number on the back of your card.

**Is this just a one-time payment?**

Yes. The Back-to-School money for your household is a one-time payment.

**Will this money affect my Food Stamp Benefits, Medical Assistance, Public Assistance or other benefits?**

No. This one-time Back to School money will not affect your eligibility for the benefits you are currently receiving.

**Are there any shopping discounts I can receive?**

Certain retailers may be offering discounts in the weeks before school starts, so please ask when you make your purchases. Also please check the New York State Consumer Protection Board's "Stretch Your Dollar" tips at [http://www.consumer.state.ny.us/syde\\_page.htm](http://www.consumer.state.ny.us/syde_page.htm)

**How can I find out about other benefits that I might be eligible for – like cash assistance or help with emergency needs?**

If you only receive food stamp benefits, please go to [www.mybenefits.ny.gov](http://www.mybenefits.ny.gov), the website to check your eligibility for other benefits such as cash assistance, help with rent arrears, Home Energy Assistance and various tax credits that might help you make ends meet during these difficult economic times.

**What do I do if I think the amount of the Payment is incorrect?**

Please refer to the Conference and Fair Hearing Page on the reverse.