



BROOKLYN'S IN THE HOUSE

NEWS FROM CONGRESSWOMAN YVETTE D. CLARKE

11th CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Representing: Brownsville, Ocean Hill, Crown Heights, Greater Flatbush, East Flatbush, Kensington, Park Slope, Carroll Gardens, Gowanus, Prospect Heights, Prospect Gardens, Grand Army Plaza, Windsor Terrace, Flatbush and Midwood

August 21, 2009

Rep. Clarke Hosts Benefits Forum for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities

On Tuesday, August 18, 2009, I had the pleasure of hosting a forum for seniors and persons with disabilities. There, over 70 of Brooklyn's finest seniors meet with New York City's top government agencies where residents expressed concerns about access to Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security and much more. For more than 40 years, Medicare has offered critical health and financial stability for senior citizens, people with disabilities and those with end-stage renal disease. Medicare will provide coverage for over 45 million individuals this year. The forum also addressed constituent concerns about access to Social Security benefits. Sadly, there has been a significant backlog of Social Security disability applications. Since coming to Congress in 2007, I have supported efforts by the Social Security Administration to reduce its backlog by hiring additional staff.



Rep. Clarke and Resident Eslyn Pusey discuss benefits at Forum

Although Congress is currently considering proposals to reform the entire healthcare system, there is an urgent need to ensure that seniors understand how to access the benefits they have under our current system. I am committed to ensuring that my constituents are well informed and able to access the benefits they need.

Procurement Expansion for Minority, Woman and Veteran Owned Businesses

This week, I was very pleased that the Obama Administration reaffirmed its commitment to increase federal contracting opportunities for small, minority-owned, women-owned, and service disabled veteran-owned businesses. It is clear to me that this Administration recognizes the tremendous contributions made by American small businesses.

The initiative is designed to establish aggressive yet strategic outreach efforts in relation to procurement opportunities. Also, the Administration will internally explore its Agencies' procurement practices to determine the best methods of creating procurement opportunities. Although disproportionately affected by the current economic downturn, these firms have held our economy together and serve as the guiding light for our economic future. The announcement of this initiative precedes an important gathering of minority business leaders in Washington.

From August 26-28, 2009, the Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency will be hosting the National Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week Conference in Washington, D.C. This conference provides a forum for minority business owners to interact with fellow entrepreneurs, government officials, and private sector leaders. It is also an opportunity to explore methods in expanding opportunities and access in this challenging global economy. I applaud Secretary Locke and Director Hinson for bringing the nation's leading minority business owners to D.C. for what is certain to be an informative and productive conference.



Dear Neighbor:

Health care reform is of great concern to you and all my constituents. That is why I will be hosting two Town Hall meetings on health care reform later this month.

The town hall meetings are entitled "H.R. 3200 America's Affordable Health Choices Act : WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?"

The first one will be held on Monday, August 31, 2009 at the Jewish Children's Museum-- 792 Eastern Parkway Brooklyn, NY 11213 (corner of Kingston Avenue and Eastern Parkway). The event will be from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The second town hall meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 1, 2009 at Flatbush-Tompkins Congregational Church-- 424 East 19th Street Brooklyn, NY 11226 (corner of Dorchester Road). The event will be from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

I encourage anyone with questions about the current health care reform proposals to join me at one or both of the meetings.

Sincerely,
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Grants Opportunities from Stimulus Funds

In the beginning of this year, the Obama Administration passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which made \$787 billion available to stimulate the economy. Below you will find program descriptions with closing dates of current competitive grant opportunities under the Stimulus Act. In order to utilize these funds I encourage the residents of Brooklyn to play an active role and apply for the grants that maybe available to you. Here is a short description of a few of the grant options available:

Biomedical Research, Development, and Growth to Spur the Acceleration of New Technologies Pilot Program (National Institutes of Health)

Deadline: September 1, 2009

Description:

Funds small businesses that conduct innovative high risk, high reward research to be replicated commercially. Winning projects will have the potential to generate high impact results and/or innovative research applications, research tools, techniques, devices, inventions, or methodologies.

Eligibility: Small Businesses

More information: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-OD-09-009.html>

Pathways Out of Poverty (Department of Labor)

Deadline: September 29, 2009

Description:

The Department of Labor (DOL) announces the availability of approximately \$150 million in grant funds for projects that provide training and placement services to provide pathways out of poverty and into employment within the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries. Grantees selected from two separate types of applicants will be funded through this solicitation: (1) national nonprofit entities with networks of local affiliates, coalition members, or other established partners; and (2) local entities. ETA intends to fund grants ranging from approximately \$3 to \$8 million for national grantees, and grants ranging from approximately \$2 to \$4 million for local grantees.

Eligibility: Non-profit organizations

More information: http://www.doleta.gov/grants/find_grants.cfm

Health Care Sector and Other High Growth and Emerging Industries (Department of Labor)

Deadline: October 5, 2009

Description:

The Department of Labor (DOL, or the Department) announces the availability of approximately \$220 million in grant funds authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the Recovery Act) for projects that provide training and placement services to help workers pursue careers in health care and other high growth industries.

Eligibility: Non-profit organizations

More information: http://www.doleta.gov/grants/find_grants.cfm

For a full list of grant opportunities, visit:

http://www.recovery.ny.gov/resources/Federal_Grant_Opportunities.htm

Legislative Spotlight

As the month of September approaches, the nation will take the time to reflect on the 8th Anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks.

That day will forever be in the hearts and minds of New Yorkers. The 9/11 attacks shocked our great city and sent waves of fear across the nation and the world.

While we cannot escape the impact of that day, I remain inspired by the unity and resilience that Americans displayed in the wake of this horrible tragedy.

There is no denying that people from all walks of life were directly affected by the events of 9-11. That is why I recently co-sponsored the September 11th Family Humanitarian Relief and Patriotism Act (H.R. 3290). This bipartisan legislation would provide humanitarian relief to immigrants who lost a spouse or parent in the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

The legislation would allow a small number of undocumented spouses and children of 9/11 victims to become legal permanent residents. The bill would also allow these family members to remain in the United States provided they abide by all rules and regulations governing legal permanent resident status.

In a bipartisan effort, I joined New York Reps. Carolyn B. Maloney, Peter King, Jerrold Nadler, and Anthony Weiner in reintroducing the legislation, which was approved by the House Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on Immigration in July. The bill will be considered by the full Judiciary Committee in September.

As a long time advocate for immigration reform, it is important for me to recognize those immigrants who were affected by the tragic events of 9-11. I am honored to support H.R. 3290.