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**NYC DSS-HRA ANNOUNCES RENAMING OF JOB CENTERS CITYWIDE WITH
UNVEILING OF BRAND-NEW STATE-OF-THE ART BENEFITS ACCESS CENTER
IN BROOKLYN**

DSS-HRA Renames ‘Job Centers’ to ‘Benefits Access Centers’ to Better Reflect the Services and Supports Offered at These Sites for Vulnerable Communities

The new state-of-the-art Benefits Access Center in Coney Island exemplifies this Administration’s commitment to further improving the delivery of social services at these sites

NEW YORK – The Department of Social Services-Human Resources Administration (DSS-HRA) announced the renaming of Job Centers to Benefits Access Centers at today’s ribbon-cutting of a brand-new state-of-the-art Benefits Access Center in Coney Island, Brooklyn. As part of this administration’s commitment to strengthen access to social services for communities in need, DSS-HRA Job Center sites will now be called Benefits Access Centers (BAC) to better reflect the purpose and function of these sites for vulnerable New Yorkers seeking HRA-administered benefits and social services. Benefits Access Centers (formerly known as Job Centers) are vital community-based resources where dedicated DSS-HRA staff work closely with New Yorkers in need to help them access the benefits for which they may be eligible. The brand-new Benefits Access Center in Brooklyn represents DSS-HRA’s efforts to modernize our physical infrastructure and further improve the delivery of social services in brick-and-mortar settings.

“In addition to providing quality, and comprehensive support to our most vulnerable New Yorkers, we must ensure that people can access these services quickly and easily,” said **New York City Mayor Eric Adams**. “This Benefits Access Center will help New Yorkers access everything from housing supports to food and cash assistance in Coney Island. I’m grateful to Commissioner Jenkins and his team for continuing to deliver these critical resources at these one-stop-shops across the city.”

“Today’s announcement is another step in supporting and reaching every New Yorker in need. This new site will improve engagement and streamline the process to ultimately connect individuals and families to the services they need,” said **Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Anne Williams-Isom**. “Thank you to DSS-HRA and to everyone involved in making this possible.”

“We are constantly working to find new ways to ensure that we are reaching all New Yorkers in need of benefits and social services,” said **Department of Social Services Commissioner Gary P. Jenkins**. “As part of these efforts it is absolutely vital that we take a fresh look at all aspects of decades-old policies and practices which may not be effectively serving our vulnerable communities today -- this includes clearly communicating and creating awareness about the

dedicated resources that are available to New Yorkers in need. To that end, we are renaming Job Centers to Benefits Access Centers to more accurately reflect the services offered at these sites for our clients. The unveiling of this brand-new Benefits Access Center represents our overall push to improve the delivery of social services while further strengthening access for New Yorkers in need.”

“The Human Resources Administration is deeply committed to making things easier for New Yorkers seeking social services every step of the way,” said **HRA Administrator Lisa Fitzpatrick**. “The opening of the Agency’s first Benefits Access Center marks an important change as we implement the renaming of these sites citywide to better align with our agency’s mission and capture the entire scope of services we offer at these sites. We are proud of the progress we have made connecting New Yorkers in need to benefits and services via our brick-and-mortar sites and remote platforms, such as ACCESS HRA. We will continue to build on these efforts to serve and support our clients in the most comprehensive way possible.”

DSS-HRA operates various Benefits Access Centers (BAC) across the five boroughs and collaborates with Community-Based Organizations (CBO) and other stakeholders to comprehensively support vulnerable New Yorkers in the community. Dedicated case managers and staff at BACs work closely with New Yorkers in need to connect them to DSS-HRA’s comprehensive network of benefits and social services including financial assistance (Cash Assistance), one-time assistance with emergencies (Emergency Assistance), food assistance (SNAP), and eviction prevention/housing assistance. The change in name will help the agency clearly communicate the function of these sites so we can reach even more New Yorkers in need. For clients looking to apply for benefits remotely, DSS-HRA’s comprehensive ACCESS HRA platform allows client to access and manage their benefits online using a centralized application system. DSS-HRA continues to enhance and introduce new technological capabilities to the platform.

“I applaud the city’s efforts to better connect residents with critical benefits and services, and DSS-HRA’s commitment to serve the residents of Coney Island,” said **New York State Assemblymember Mathylde Frontus**. “This new building is part of an ongoing wave of investment in our neighborhood and will benefit countless residents by ensuring they are aware of the many programs and benefits available to them in their own community. Congratulations on everyone involved in the opening of the brand-new Benefits Access Center located right in the heart of Coney Island.”

“Thank you to HRA for opening their new Benefits Access Center in Coney Island, moving us closer to every New Yorker – especially Brooklynites – being able to easily access important resources for their families,” said **Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso**.

“Jewish Community Council of Greater Coney Island (JCCGCI), a citywide provider which has partnered with HRA for close to forty years in delivering diverse and impactful services throughout the five boroughs, joins the southern Brooklyn communities and all New Yorkers in congratulating HRA on the opening of a new state of the art Benefits Access Center in Coney Island,” said **Rabbi Moshe Wiener, Executive Director at JCCGCI**. “For decades, government has concentrated one of the highest densities of low-income individuals and families

in Coney Island. We applaud Mayor Adams and his new administration for assuring that, beginning now, first-class supportive services will be available based in Coney Island to help lift those in need out of poverty. With the leadership of distinguished visionaries such as Commissioner Gary Jenkins and Administrator Lisa Fitzpatrick, Coney Island's residents can now be filled with new hope that their challenges are being prioritized in a refreshing new level of care and compassion."

About the Department of Social Services (DSS):

The Department of Social Services, comprised of the Human Resources Administration (HRA) and the Department of Homeless Services (DHS), serves millions of New Yorkers annually through a broad range of services that aim to address poverty, income inequality, and prevent homelessness. HRA serves over three million New Yorkers through the administration of more than 12 major public assistance programs. DHS oversees a broad network of shelters, services, and outreach programs dedicated to helping New Yorkers experiencing homelessness get back on their feet. DSS is central to the City's mission to expand opportunity for more New Yorkers, address income inequality, help New Yorkers experiencing homelessness stabilize their lives, and ensure that vulnerable New Yorkers receive the benefits and assistance for which they may be eligible.