

# COMMUNITY RESOURCES

**Empire Justice Unemployment and Paid Leave Legal Help Line (800) 724-0490 ext. 5827** Additional resources regarding legal issues impacting low-income families as a result of this crisis

<https://empirejustice.org/covid-19-resources/>

**Free tax return preparation assistance:** You may be eligible to have an IRS-certified volunteer prepare your income tax returns at no cost. There are Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites across New York State. To locate an open VITA site near you go to <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/free-tax-return-preparation-for-you-by-volunteers>

**NYS Unified Court:** System's Coronavirus hotline: If you have specific questions about your juror service, a case already in court, or you need to start a court case call the Coronavirus Hotline: [833-503-0447](tel:833-503-0447).

**Evictions in NYS:** All evictions in NYS are stayed by state court order, pending further notice. This includes evictions from homes following a foreclosure sale.

<https://www.nycourts.gov/whatsnew/pdf/Updated-Protocol-AttachmentA.pdf>

## Unlawful Evictions

[https://ag.ny.gov/sites/default/files/guidance\\_to\\_law\\_enforcement\\_on\\_illegal\\_lockouts.pdf](https://ag.ny.gov/sites/default/files/guidance_to_law_enforcement_on_illegal_lockouts.pdf)

**FHA Mortgage Loans:** 60-day moratorium on foreclosures

<https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/OCHCO/documents/20-04hsgml.pdf>

**Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac Mortgages - forbearance agreements:** Servicers of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac mortgages are required to evaluate folks experiencing COVID-19 related hardship for 90-day forbearance. Homeowners can check whether their loan is backed by [Fannie Mae](#) or [Freddie Mac](#) by using the agencies' loan look up tools and can confirm whether their loan is FHA-insured by reviewing their loan documents and mortgage statements. Homeowners should also contact their mortgage company to explore their options.

**Mortgages serviced in NYS:** 90-day allowances and other protections: Governor Cuomo announced a 30-day moratorium on foreclosures in NYS and other relief.

[https://www.dfs.ny.gov/industry\\_guidance/industry\\_letters/il20200319\\_coronavirus\\_mortgage\\_relief](https://www.dfs.ny.gov/industry_guidance/industry_letters/il20200319_coronavirus_mortgage_relief).



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