**COVID-19 Community Response Resources for Families – Moving into Summer Months**

Community Resource Google Sheet: bit.ly/CHPCOVIDResources

Google drive of resources: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1KSQLOnlB-sqf-->[gPT3rTizVjiSRbj4m7](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1KSQLOnlB-sqf--gPT3rTizVjiSRbj4m7)

Any family with basic needs can contact PA 2-1-1 Southwest. How to connect:

* Dial 2-1-1
* Text zip code to 898-211
* Visit website at [pa211sw.org](file:///Users/ronmacdonald/Desktop/pa211sw.org)

Food Resources

Farmers Markets (see list of Farmers Markets [here](https://drive.google.com/file/d/15nm4asXyeKNLwsrRu_Xc96sSW9y2xa9Z/view?usp=sharing))

* Changes to market operations
  + Standard protocols (similar to grocery stores) in place
  + Masks are required
  + Online pre-ordering recommended (check each market website for vendor information)
  + Cannot use SNAP benefits to pre-purchase food online
* Use mutual aid groups or neighbors/friends to shop at farmers markets for you
* For more information about where SNAP benefits can be used, see Just Harvest’s Fresh Access website: <http://www.justharvest.org/fresh-access/>
* For every $2 in food stamps spent at the market, will receive $2 coupon for fruits and vegetables

Summer Feeding Sites (see flyer [here](https://drive.google.com/file/d/19zoCRxf_zpuhYjw3ZLoBJli4Kfr1SNao/view?usp=sharing))

* Through August 31, 2020
  + Grab & Go style meals
  + Sites can bundle meals for multiple days
  + Parents can pick up meals
* To find sites:
  + Text “FOOD” to 877-877
  + Call 2-1-1
  + <https://www.fns.usda.gov/meals4kids>

Government Programs

* Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits (food stamps)
* CHP families can call 412-593-8524 (Amanda Sloane). Caller should leave a voicemail and will be sent a "How can I help you?" text message autoreply.
* Can also visit website and fill out their online form <https://www.justharvest.org/get-help/snap-food-stamps/>
* Just Harvest will also help families apply for
  + Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)/Cash Assistance
  + Low Income Heating & Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)
* Pennsylvania residents can also apply online <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/compass.web/Public/CMPHome>

Food Distributions

* Food Bank’s Doorstep Delivery program, which brings eligible households a 25-pound box of shelf-stable food right to the recipient’s door (can enroll for up to six weeks)
* Individuals in need of food assistance should call 412-460-3663 ext. 655 from 8am – 4:30pm Monday – Friday to find out if they are eligible for the doorstep delivery service
* For information about drive-up distribution dates/sites, see this link:

<https://www.pittsburghfoodbank.org/get-help/emergency-distributions/>

Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT)

* Families whose children qualify for free and reduced-price school meals can receive P-EBT.
* See detailed handout [here](https://drive.google.com/file/d/17LMhJZDWD0EfdUeM7MGjtcFe6zJJaSn0/view?usp=sharing).

Housing & Utilities

Residents of Federally Assisted Housing

* Cannot be evicted due to late payments until July 25
* Cannot be charge late fees until July 25
* Even with these protections, rent is still owed

PA Renters are protected from eviction through at least July 10, 2020

* If anyone believes they have wrongly received an eviction notice, contact Neighborhood Legal Services or the Housing Authority of Pittsburgh

[Housing Stabilization Program (HSP)](https://www.ura.org/news/ura-s-housing-stabilization-program-is-available-to-assist-with-financial-hardships) provides one-time or short-term financial assistance to households that are facing a housing crisis during this time. Funded by the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA).

* Dial 2-1-1 or text zip code to 898-211 to see if household qualifies.
* Utility services cannot be terminated during the pandemic emergency declaration, per the Pennsylvania Utility Commission (PUC)

Other support for utility bills:

* [Low Income Heating & Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funding available](https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Pages/LIHEAP-Recovery-Crisis-Program.aspx) (until August 31, 2020 or until funds are exhausted)
* [Emergency Assistance Program (EAP)](https://www.compass.state.pa.us/COMPASS.Web/AFS/EmergencyCashAssistance)
* Budget Billing & Payment Plans with individual companies (ask utility company)

Unemployment Compensation (UC)

Changes to UC

* Work search & work registration requirements temporarily suspended
* Waiting week requirement temporarily suspended
* Those already receive UC may receive an additional $600 per week until July 25
  + Must continue to file bi-weekly claims
* File an initial claim [here](https://www.uc.pa.gov/unemployment-benefits/file/Pages/File%20an%20Initial%20Claim.aspx)
* File bi-weekly claims [here](https://www.uc.pa.gov/unemployment-benefits/file/Pages/File%20a%20Biweekly%20Claim.aspx)

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)

* For folks not traditionally eligible for UC, but qualify due to COVID-19 (self-employed, gig workers, independent contractors, those seeking part time employment)
* May qualify to receive 26 weeks of UC
  + Plus an additional $600/wekk until July 25
  + Potential additional 13 weeks of UC (if still unemployed after 26 weeks)
* Apply [here](https://pua.benefits.uc.pa.gov/vosnet/Default.aspx)

Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation

* If your 26 weeks of UC were exhausted after July 1, 2019, may qualify to receive PEUC
* More info and apply [here](https://www.uc.pa.gov/unemployment-benefits/file/Pages/Filing-for-PEUC.aspx)

Child Care

Childcare for essential workers

* Reach out to DHS Early Learning Resource Center (ELRC) [Sarah.elrc5@AlleghenyCounty.US](mailto:Sarah.elrc5@AlleghenyCounty.US)

All childcare needs – Allegheny County

* Finding child care online for Allegheny County –Trying Together <https://find.alleghenychildcare.org/families>

Child care throughout PA - [COMPASS](https://www.compass.state.pa.us/Compass.Web/ProviderSearch/Home)

General Basic Needs

* Emergency Basic Needs Fund through the United Way – will also connect families to an organization near them who can help with other supports & case management
* Residents eligible: Allegheny, Butler, Fayette, Westmoreland, and South Armstrong
* Apply [here](http://pa211sw.org/assistance-fund/)

Just Harvest’s COVID-19 Support Page

<https://www.justharvest.org/get-help-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

Technology Access

* Internet Resources & Low-Cost Computers – [Application and Supports from Comcast](https://apply.internetessentials.com/)
* Lifeline services (low-income internet and phone services) – most companies participate. More info [here](http://www.puc.pa.gov/Telecom/pdf/Lifeline%20Brochure-StayConnected.pdf).
  + Locate a Lifeline service provider [here](https://www.lifelinesupport.org/)

Social Connection

* Boys & Girls Club – [InstaClubhouse](https://www.bgcwpa.org/instaclubhouse/)
  + Virtual clubhouse, learn and play without leaving home
* Boys & Girls Club – [Virtual Summer Camp](https://www.bgcwpa.org/2020/05/21/exciting-new-partnerships-with-outschool-and-lift-lms-to-support-innovative-engaging-virtual-summer-camp-programming/)
  + More structured programming for kids
  + Sign up for 25 minutes or up to hours per week
  + Register [here](https://campscui.active.com/orgs/BoysGirlsClubsofWesternPennsylvania?orglink=camps-registration&fbclid=IwAR1NW7asviDEkRWs77pxNCUzGc1JIF4pWydGqGIbFXfdorvZqVui-VKo2X0) ($50 w/ scholarship)
* PPS – [Summer Dreamers](https://www.pghschools.org/summerdreamers)
  + Can hold up to 2600 children, virtually
  + Starts June 29, register [here](https://summerdreamers.pps.k12.pa.us/login)
* PPS – [Summer Learn & Earn](https://pghboe.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8exqKjRFQBRn59H)
  + Current 8th and 9th grade students
  + Can also apply with the City of Pittsburgh [here](https://www.partner4work.org/learnandearn/apply-now/)

City of Pittsburgh’s [Bridge to Summer site](https://pittsburghpa.gov/bridge-to-summer/index.html) has all of these resources and more.

Mental Health Resources

* Providers offering telemedicine services.
* [Pitt’s Services for Teens at Risk](https://www.starcenter.pitt.edu/clinical-services)
  + Clinical services available
* [Resolve Crisis Hotline](https://www.upmc.com/services/behavioral-health/resolve-crisis-services)
  + 1-888-796-8226
* [CACTIS (Children & Adolescent Chronic Disorders Treatment Intervention Svcs)](https://www.upmc.com/services/behavioral-health/resolve-crisis-services/contact)
  + 412-864-5065
  + [CACTISreferral@UPMC.EDU](mailto:CACTISreferral@UPMC.EDU)

Family Support Services

* Allegheny County DHS Family Support Network
  + Six centers operated by CHP staff (Family Care Connections, FCCs): Turtle Creek, Braddock, Rankin, Penn Hills, Hilltop, Lawrenceville
* For all family support services during COVID-19, see [link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1B3pH68ZhsOaj04WXLoOWmgmjKAqDJYlp)
* Family Check Up (FCU) offered at many Family Centers. Three step intervention model for parents and their children (behavioral health therapist employed by CHP)

Educational Resources

* Learning is important – but consider basic needs first.
* If a family would like to make sure their children can learn this summer, here are some resources:
  + [Carnegie Library Online Resources](https://www.carnegielibrary.org/eresources/)
  + [Children’s Museum Activities and Resources](https://pittsburghkids.org/museumathome)

Questions, comments, or potential collaborations?

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