



AGENCY UPDATES IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS

Connect with local resources at <https://www.livgov.com/hscb>

During this pandemic, we are facing unprecedented changing health, financial, social and emotional situations. This document is a collection of local resources which may be helpful to you and your family.

Any updates should be emailed to Amy Johnston at ajohnston@cmhliv.org. If you have any questions, please contact the agency directly. Some of the information may not be accurate or complete.

Be well and be safe!

COVID-19 INFORMATION	
Livingston County Health Department	https://www.livgov.com/health/ph/Pages/COVID19
State of Michigan coronavirus information	https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus
MDHHS statewide hotline	1-888-535-6136
Center for Disease Control	https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov

FOOD ASSISTANCE	
The Salvation Army of Livingston County	<p>Sack lunches at the following locations from noon to 1:00pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday: Hartland Meadows Tuesday: Lakeshore Village Apartments 2812 Ontario Ct, Howell Wednesday: Grand Plaza Apartments 401 S Highlander Way, Howell Thursday: Prentis Estates Apartments 1103 S Latson Rd, Howell Friday: Howell Estates, 515 Mason Rd, Howell The Salvation Army pantry — 503 Lake St., Howell <p>Appointments required 517-295-4348</p>
Bountiful Harvest	<p>Bountiful Harvest Inc., located at 290 E Grand River in Brighton, will be packaging breakfast and lunch for children who are on the free or reduced lunch programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For children who are on the "Free & Reduced Lunch Program" Please call 810-360-0271 before 5:00pm for pick-up next day - Pick-up days & time: TUESDAY-FRIDAY: 12:00PM TO 2:00PM If you need delivery - please call and we will accommodate NEW PANTRY HOURS: Tuesday-Friday: 12:00pm to 4:00pm -Pick-up & Delivery ONLY, Saturday: 8:00am to 12:00pm - Pick-up & Delivery ONLY
Meals on Wheels	<p>Meals on Wheels are up and running 100% for home delivered meals. We need volunteers</p>

	810.632.2155
Hot Meal Sites	<p>Fish and Loaves meals are pick up only at Cornerstone (9455 Hilton-Brighton) on these dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday, March 25 • Sunday, March 29 • Wednesday, April 1 • Sunday, April 5 • Wednesday, April 8 • Sunday, April 12 <p>Meals are available from 4pm to 5pm-on a first come first serve basis Please stay in your car, and the meal(s) will be brought out to you. Call 810.494.4013 or email kleaf@cstoneepc.com with questions</p>
Gleaners Shared Harvest Pantry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributing breakfast and lunch every other week at 4:00 pm at Fowlerville High School • Distributing breakfast and lunch every other week at the Pinckney Bus Garage Wednesday 4 – 6 pm • Pinckney School Food Mobile Pantry on 3/18 still scheduled • Three Fires Elementary School Food Mobile Pantry at 9:45am—stay in your car • Shared Harvest Pantry will remain available for all families Appointments are needed. It is a drive up food distribution. • Please call 517.548.3710 if you need more information or to schedule an appointment
Farley Hill 8110 Farley Rd, Pinckney	<p>810.599.0460</p> <p>Thursdays:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1:00-3:30pm (no appointment needed) • 5:00-6:00pm same day but appointment is required for the evening hour
Torch 180 131 Mill Street, Fowlerville	Not serving meals for the week of March 30, 2020
Putnam Township Hall 3280 W. M 36, Pinckney, behind the fire station	<p>For Seniors</p> <p>Tuesdays 1 to 3 PM and Fridays 10 AM till noon</p> <p>Any questions they can call 734-878-1810 and can leave a message</p>
Sonrise Assemblies of God Church 1130 W Highland Rd, Howell	<p>BY appointment only 517-546-2669</p> <p>All welcome, Mondays-6:30 pm-8:30pm and Tuesdays- 9:30-11:30 am</p>
St. Mary Magdalen Church, 2201 South Old U.S. 23 Highway, Brighton	Magdalen's Kitchen is continuing to distribute take-home meals on Mondays at 6 pm.
Hidden Springs Church 5860 Latson Rd, Howell	<p>All welcome, Appointment only 517-546-3577</p> <p>Tuesdays 9:30 to 3 and Wednesdays 9:30-3</p>
St. Mary's in Pinckney	Food Pantry is still open. Call 734.878.3161
Family Impact Center 735 N Grand, Fowlerville	<p>Must make an appointment 517-223-4428</p> <p>Tuesdays 10-3, Thursdays 10-3 and 5-8 and Friday 10-2</p>

DHHS - Michigan Food Assistance Program

Call 1-855-275-6424 or apply for benefits online: www.michigan.gov/mibridges

Livingston County WIC

The office is closed to the public. We are still available by phone and can make individual appointments if certain services require them. **We are accepting new clients.**

Main line: 517-546-9850 WIC: 517-546-5459

SOCIAL / EMOTIONAL / DISABILITIES / SENIOR / RECOVERY SUPPORTS

Livingston County Community Mental Health

- Emergency Services: emergency and crisis services 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. To access emergency services, call (517) 546-4126 or (800) 615-1245.
- Starting services: Persons seeking to begin new behavioral health or substance use services should contact our Intake and Department at (517) 546-4126 or (800) 615-1245.
- Stepping Stones Engagement Center continues to provide substance use services on-site at 2020 East Grand River Ave, Howell. They operate 5 pm – 9 am on weekdays and 24 hours per day on weekends. (517) 376-6262.
- Personal Emergency Response System (PERS): continues to provide audio-monitoring services 24 hours per day, 7 days a week services.
- Routine and/or ongoing services: We have suspended all routine/scheduled in-person contacts until further notice **except for psychiatric, injection, ACT services and emergency services.**
- Staff are maintaining contact with consumers and addressing their needs, primarily by phone. This includes, in addition to behavioral health needs, other basic needs such as food, housing resources, and access to medications or health care. We are working on the potential for adding other communication technologies to this remote work. **If you need to reach your CMH staff person, please continue to use the method you have been using.**
- We are maintaining a staff presence at our 2280 East Grand River Ave. and 622 East Grand River Ave., Howell, offices in order to conduct psychiatric, injection and emergency/crisis appointments. Those buildings remain open from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. All consumers and employees who enter those buildings during those hours will be screened at the door for health concerns, including taking temperatures, and alternatives to entering the building could be required.
- Genesis House: We have closed our Genesis House Clubhouse Program site to consumers but staff continues to provide ongoing support remotely to clubhouse members.
- Heather Oaks Drop-In Center: The drop-in center is closed to the public until further notice.
- **Crisis Hotline - text TALK to 741741 OR call 1-800-273-TALK**

The Connection Youth Services

- Livingston Family Center’s mental health outpatient facility in Pinckney is closed to the public, however, all of our therapists are seeing clients through teletherapy and office staff will be onsite to maintain minimum, basic operations
- The Connection Youth Services’ Drop-In Center is closed to the public, however,

we are scheduling appointments for youth and families to come in for basic need items (food, hygiene items, and some clothing)

- We have case managers and therapists available to assist families in crisis or in need of additional support. Our 24/7 line remains available to assist youth and families with safety and crisis planning and to screen intakes for the emergency shelter
- The 24/7 line number is: **1-866-440-7233**

Livingston County Catholic Charities

LCCC will be open for individual counseling with the goal of providing Telehealth (phone counseling) during the listed dates & times.

For those that require a face-to-face session, please advise your counselor. The reception area is open for the client only (parents may come in to check in a child). All drivers or family members must remain in their cars while your loved one is in session due to the limited space in our reception area.

- Tuesday, March 31, 12 – 8pm
- Wednesday, April 1, 9am – 5pm.
- Friday, April 3, 9am – 5pm.
- Tuesday, April 7, 12 – 8pm.
- Wednesday, April 8, 9am – 5pm.

LCCC has suspended all groups including Engagement, Substance Use, Caregiver Support along with all Special Ministries programming and Be Our Guest Adult Day until April 14. LCCC will continually be monitoring the situation and adjust the schedule as the situation evolves. Up to date information can be found on our Facebook page and web site.

It is important to please contact your counselor to set up or confirm your appointment. If you did not have a counselor and were just attending groups but now would like to establish individual counseling or need 24hour phone support, please contact Jessica Buckner, Substance Abuse Clinical Case Manager, at LCCC offices 517-545-5944 or her work cell 517-375-1652.

On-line Recovery and Substance Abuse Support Groups:

<http://aa-intergroup.org/index.php>
<https://www.12step-online.com/meetings/online-na-meetings/>
<https://www.myrecovery.com/online-meeting/>
<https://www.intherooms.com/home/>
<https://na.org/>

VOLUNTEER CAREGIVER SERVICES - Staff and volunteers will still be assisting with food deliveries, prescriptions and other essential services for the senior population. Please call Katie or Jamie at 517-545-5944 x 121.

SENIOR COMMUNITY LIAISONS – staff will still be providing services to all Seniors over the phone (in person only if necessary) You can connect with a Senior Community Liaison by phone 517-545-5944. Ask for Melodie or Beth. You may also reach out via email Melodie@LivingstonCatholicCharities.org or Beth@LivingstonCatholicCharities.org

We can assist with much over the phone: Health Care Coverage issues, low income applications, Medicare info and enrollments, connect to resources, info on Long term Care options, census reporting assistance, how to report Fraud and Abuse, Prescription assistance etc.

LACASA

- Administrative offices are closed to the public
- All parent groups to include teen groups and DAIP have been suspended until Mid-April
- LACASA Collection (upscale retail) is currently closed
- Cinderella's Closet is currently closed
- PPO's and other requested services should contact the Help Line 866.522.2725
- Counseling is still continuing-primarily virtual
- New clients seeking counseling or other services can **contact the Help Line for assistance**
- Providing CARE and SANE services
- Shelter services are still open
- Please see our website for specific event cancellations

Most staff are working remote-their office phones are forwarded so you are able to reach them off site. <https://lacasacenter.org> Help Line 866.522.2725

Perspectives Therapy Services

Open to provide mental health services to our community members in need. They are offering both telehealth and in-person options, providing mental health counseling and psychiatric services. New patients are encouraged to call the intake line at 810-494-7180 or visit the website at www.perspectivestherapyservices.com

Celebrate Recovery at The Naz

- Celebrate Recovery at The Naz is offering online groups through zoom Monday night
- Contact celebraterecovery@thenaz.org to get connected with a group
- Addictions, Emotional Healing, Codependency for women and Sexual Integrity, Triple A (Addiction, Anger, Anything) for men
- Facebook Live Monday nights and will be doing several videos during the week (Facebook-Naz Celebrate Recovery)

The Arc Livingston

The Arc Livingston office is closed and all scheduled meetings and activities are cancelled until April 13th. Our Representative Payee services will continue, but any in-person payee support that is necessary will take place by appointment only.

This health emergency is difficult, and even more so for children and adults with disabilities that struggle with change and interruptions in schedules. The Arc Livingston is committed to serving our community and by working remotely, we will continue to share updates, resources and online activities through Facebook, in an attempt to provide some relief and help to keep our community members as healthy and safe as possible. Through our work with local collaborative groups and initiatives, our advocacy efforts for people with disabilities and their families in Livingston County are continuing. Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Thearclivingston/>

Livingston and Ann Arbor Center for Independent

We are working with individuals with disabilities to connect with needed resources. Please contact Shannon Clark: sclark@aacil.org 734.971.0277 x29

Living

The Ann Arbor/Livingston/Monroe Centers for Independent Living are excited to be starting virtual recreation activities for individuals with disabilities in our three counties. Our first virtual recreation group will be our “Virtual Movie Club”. This group will be assigned a movie to watch and will then participate via BlueJeans (whether that is video or phone call participation) in a facilitated discussion/trivia session! Complete this survey if interested in participating <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WY5QYQ2>. If you need help with the survey, call and it can be completed over the phone.

Thriving Minds in both Brighton and Chelsea

Continue to see patients via teletherapy; this allows families and individuals to access treatment from the safety of their homes. We specialize in anxiety and OCD, both of which are likely on the rise right now in children, adolescents, and adults.

We are accepting new patients right now - interested individuals can call 734.433.5100 or see our website at www.thrivingmindsbehavioralhealth.com Aimee Kotrba

Area Agency on Aging 1-B

- The AAA 1-B will continue to operate. However, we have moved our staff to a remote-based workforce and have closed our Southfield and Macomb offices effective Monday March 16, 2020, until further notice.
- Information and Assistance **Telephone Line: (800) 852-7795**
- For a short period of time, calls to our Information & Assistance Department will go to voicemail and we will return those calls as quickly as possible, with a focus on those with highest priority. We are working towards having a fully functioning, off-site, live call center set up the week of March 23, 2020. We will be returning calls from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., while we transition to our off-site, live call center. Our Information & Assistance Telephone Line will continue to be a place that older adults, people with disabilities and their family members can call to find resources, services, programs and information.
- In-home Care Services: Our priority is also the delivery of vital in-home services to seniors and adults with disabilities. We will be working closely with our network of contracted organizations and vendor companies to ensure the safety and well-being of participants receiving support through home and community-based programs.
- Meals on Wheels: there is no interruption in the delivery of the meals. Our providers are working on providing additional shelf stable meals for participants in the event a meal cannot be delivered. Our providers will continue to keep their participants updated if there are any changes regarding their meal delivery.
- All of our congregate meals sites are temporarily closed, with two exceptions in Macomb and Washtenaw County. We are hoping to be able offer alternate meals to impacted participants.
- We have canceled our Health & Wellness classes, Caregiver Education classes and workshops and all other events that are currently scheduled to run during March. We have not yet made a decision on whether we will cancel or reschedule classes that are to start after April 1, 2020.
- Continuous Monitoring: this is a rapidly evolving situation. We will continue to closely monitor the progression of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and keep you informed of any changes to services and programs as necessary.

Kathleen Yanik, (248) 262-9980 (office), (248) 904-6597 (cell)

**Ascension
Brighton Center
for Recovery**

Patient calls Customer Service Representative at **810.220.5514**
They will then schedule the patient for a phone based (Tele-Health) assessment by our clinical staff. After the assessment over the phone, the person calling can fall in 2 categories:

1. If disorder is mild or moderate, patient is enrolled in our intensive Tele-Health services (which include our CCP Program)
2. For a more severe disorder:
 - A nurse will complete an over the phone triage for Covid-19 symptoms and Detox criteria
 - If disorder is severe and needing detox, the patient is admitted to detox services with follow-up being intensive Tele-Health services with CCP

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call or email me:
Kelly Tanner, 248.345.4863, Kelly.tanner@ascension.org

HOUSING ASSISTANCE

**Oakland Livingston
Human Service
Agency**

For provide emergency support for housing, nutrition, and utility assistance, as well as, housing counseling services. OLHSA staff continues to work remotely as our offices in Howell is closed to the public. All services are still available as listed below:

- Emergency Shelter 517-546-8500 ext. 4113
- Rental Assistance 517-546-8500 ext. 4113
- Emergency Utilities 517-292-2969 or www.olhsa.cascheduler.com
- Emergency Nutrition 517-404-6020
- Housing Counseling 517-546-8500 or housingcounseling@olhsa.org
- Supportive Services for Veterans Families program please call 517-599-6954

St. Vincent de Paul

The three St, Vincent de Paul conferences (St. Augustine 810-220-9741, St. Joseph 517-404-1984, and Holy Spirit 810-231-9199x235) are providing assistance as we have always done -- shelter, rent, utilities, food, transportation, medical, etc. The difference is that, as a general rule, we are not making home visits. "Visits" are being done via telephone.

People needing assistance should call the conferences, leave their name and phone number, and describe the assistance they are requesting and a volunteer will return their call.

Love, INC

Love INC is still open. All phone calls will require the caller to leave a message and then someone will return their call as we are able. We are working with all of the churches to confirm who is still operational during this time. Please call and leave a message **517-552-3970**

**The Salvation Army
Evictions**

Rent, utilities and shelter support please call **517-295-4348**
Michigan is prohibiting evictions from residential properties, including mobile homes, during the coronavirus pandemic. The eviction moratorium applies to residential properties, but not businesses. Residents do not need to take any action in order to avoid eviction. Tenants are still responsible for rent owed. The eviction moratorium took effect March 20, and it will last until 11:59 p.m. April 17.

**Mortgage
forbearance and**

The federal CARES Act allows borrowers with federally-backed residential mortgages to defer payments for 180 days, with the option to request another 180 days of

moratorium on foreclosures and evictions

forbearance. Federally-backed mortgages include mortgages insured by the Federal Housing Administration, purchased by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and insured or guaranteed by other federal departments.

The forbearance period is in addition to a previously announced 60-day moratorium on mortgage foreclosures for borrowers with federally-backed, single-family home mortgages. The CARES Act also places a 120-day moratorium on evictions for properties with federally-backed mortgages, multi-family mortgages and certain housing programs.

Homeowners who anticipate trouble paying their mortgage should not simply stop making payments. Contact your servicer/lender to request a forbearance due to financial hardship related to the COVID-19 emergency. If given mortgage forbearance, take steps to ensure you will be able to repay the amount that was reduced or suspended after the mortgage forbearance period.

Mortgage foreclosures are suspended through May 17, and evictions are suspended for 120 days. The mortgage payment forbearance period is up to 180 days, with the option to request a 180-day extension. During a forbearance, no fees, penalties, or interest beyond the amounts scheduled or calculated as if the borrower made timely contractual payments will accrue on the borrower's account.

SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN

LESA - Emergency Child Care Services

Livingston ESA's Early Childhood experts are coordinating **emergency child care services** to assist essential workforce members with child care needs during this crisis. If you are an essential worker, as defined in Executive Order 2020-16, and a resident of Livingston County needing child care services, please call 517.548.5261, or go to <https://bit.ly/LivCoCC> Once we receive your information, a member of our staff will contact you

The Education Project will continue to provide needs to students and families if requested. Services will be limited and requests may be referred to other agencies. If you work with any homeless clients with children (school age - Early on, Head Start/GSRP, K - 12) please make sure they have completed our referral. Candice Olrich, Livingston Educational Service Agency at 517-540-6834

Diapers

There are two agencies that can help with diaper needs:

- Pregnancy Help Clinic and Love INC. Email Pregnancy Help Clinic at director@pregnancyhelpclinic.com to request diapers and they will set up a time for a curbside pickup
- Love INC, call 517-552-3620 and leave a message. Love INC is not sure how many churches may have diapers, but if they locate some they will call the individual back to arrange a pick up time

Great Start Collaborative and Parent Coalition Members

All Great Start Livingston meetings and events have been postponed through April 12, 2020. Since we will be unable to provide our spring workshop, Great Start Livingston would like to provide you with some resources from community partners:

Self-Care, Gratitude & Kindness: Taylor Hicks, PhD, LP, NCSP and Megan Hickman, LMSW,

serve as the Behavioral Health Consultant and Social-Emotional Learning Coach, respectively, for the Agency. Together, they have created a website called [A Daily Dose](#) (of Self-Care, Gratitude & Kindness), which they hope will provide staff guidance on how to promote, and maintain, mental health and wellness for themselves, their families, and their communities.

MI Stronger Family - Michigan State University Extension: Looking for parenting support? Join MSU Extension's Guiding Principles for Highly Successful Parenting Webinar series! This FREE online series for parents of toddlers to teens will help you develop family routines, build emotional control in your child, be a calm, assertive parent, develop consistent rules and relationships and develop empathy as a parent. Click here for more information: [Parenting Support](#).

What children need right now to develop resilience through this uncertain time – strong relationship with a supportive adult, community connections, and executive function and self-control. [Check out this great resource on resilience!](#)

Robin Schutz, Great Start Livingston & Livingston Promise
Phone: 517-540-6829 Cell: 810-588-2218

OTHER ASSISTANCE

United Way United Way has decided to stay operational over the next few weeks. We have an application process for agencies providing direct services for basic needs to access needed funds to help: <https://www.lcunitedway.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Relief-Fund-Guidelines-and-Application-1.pdf>

Check out <https://www.lcunitedway.org> for more information or to give.

LETS LETS will continue to provide transportation for dialysis patients but has suspended all other public transit services. With our remaining staff we are focusing on critical meal delivery services for local organizations.

Please let me know if anyone has unmet delivery needs that LETS can help with. Greg Kellogg
810-923-7978

Legal Services of South Central Michigan LSSCM continues to work remotely. Our physical office is not open to the public. If a person is in need of legal assistance, they can contact our intake number at **1-888-783-8190** and we will assess whether we can represent them. Kyle Jansen

Michigan Works Southeast 1240 Packard DR Howell The lobby is closed to walk in traffic. We continue to be staffed and open to help consumers and business partners but we are doing it via telephone and email. Appointments will be available on a limited basis with a phone call screening first. **Those needing to apply for unemployment DO NOT NEED TO REPORT IN PERSON TO MICHIGAN WORKS!**
Direct Line: 517-552-2109, Front Desk: 517-546-7450
Cell: 517-607-9388, TTY: 711

Due to the high volume of unemployment applications as a result of COVID-19, the Unemployment Insurance Agency has developed a schedule for workers to apply for benefits based on the first letter of their last name, effective March 29:

Online Filing Schedule - Michigan.gov/UIA. (Workers are encouraged to go online during off-peak times between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m.)

- Last names beginning with letters A-L are asked to file claims on Mondays, Wednesdays, or Fridays.
- Last names beginning with letters M-Z are asked to file claims on Sundays, Tuesdays, or Thursdays.
- Saturdays will be available for anyone to accommodate those who could not file during their allotted window.

Call Center Filing Schedule - call 866-500-0017 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

- Last names beginning with letters A-L are asked to call on Mondays or Wednesdays.
- Last names beginning with letters M-Z are asked to call on Tuesdays or Thursdays.
- Fridays will be available for anyone to accommodate those who could not file during their allotted window.

MSU Extension

We are currently closed but someone is monitoring/answering the phones.

We will not be holding any face to face classes until after May 15, 2020. There are online/virtual classes that we are offering. Check our website at:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/rlr/index>

My Community Dental Center (MCDC)

The center remains open to provide essential, emergency care only. In order to alleviate emergency department traffic and address urgent dental needs, patients should call **877-313-6232**

Medicare

- Scammers come out of the woodwork during times of uncertainty and change. So make sure you give your Medicare number only to your doctor, pharmacist, hospital, health insurer, or other trusted healthcare provider
- If someone calls you on the phone, says they're from Medicare, and asks for your Medicare number or other personal information – just hang up.
- Remember: Medicare **never calls its beneficiaries** to ask for or to “verify” Medicare numbers
- Be sure to check your Medicare claim summaries for errors and questionable bills
- If you suspect Medicare fraud, please report it by calling Medicare’s toll-free customer service center at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), or by visiting www.medicare.gov/fraud
- If your doctor orders a COVID-19 test for you, Medicare covers all of the costs. You should not have any cost-sharing.
- Medicare also covers all medically necessary hospitalizations. This includes extra days in the hospital for in-patients who were on the verge of being discharged, but were diagnosed with COVID-19 and had to stay longer under quarantine
- There's no vaccine for COVID-19 at this time. However, if one becomes available, Medicare will cover it
- If you have a Medicare Advantage Plan, you have the same benefits as people with Original Medicare. Medicare Advantage plans are now required to have the same cost-sharing for COVID-19 lab tests as Original Medicare: zero
- Medicare also recently expanded its coverage of telehealth services to enable beneficiaries across the country to receive a wider range of healthcare services from

- doctors without having to travel to a healthcare facility
- Doctors, nurse practitioners, clinical psychologists, and licensed clinical social workers can deliver telehealth services via phone and video chat. Medicare beneficiaries can receive telehealth services in their home as well as in any healthcare facility, including a physician’s office, hospital, nursing home, or rural health clinic
- During this emergency, Medicare will pay for telehealth services at the same rates as in-person services, giving doctors and other clinicians an incentive to use this alternative and reserve their offices to treat those who truly require in-person care

Internet services Both Comcast and Charter Spectrum are offering free internet for 60 days for qualifying families, as well as offering free wireless hotspots.

Broadband and Telephone Services Contact your service provider if you anticipate trouble paying your bill. There is no set end date; the pledge is expected to last for the duration of the coronavirus pandemic.

Utility Services DTE Energy and Consumers Energy announced on March 16 they will suspend electricity and natural gas shutoffs during the coronavirus pandemic. Shutoffs due to non-payment are suspended for people with low incomes and senior citizens.

How to Access: DTE customers impacted by COVID-19 — those with a sudden loss of income or medical condition — as well as vulnerable seniors can call 800-477-4747 to determine eligibility for payment assistance. Consumers customers affected by COVID-19 can call 800-477-5050.

Both companies said their shutoff suspension will last through April 30, and that timeframe could be adjusted. Customers in either company’s Winter Protection Program already had their end dates extended through May 3, without any additional action required.

Water Service Everyone in the state is eligible for water restoration, regardless of past-due water bills. This program does not eliminate the obligation of a resident to pay for water, prevent a public water supply from charging any customer for water service, or reduce the amount a resident may owe to a public water supply.

Contact your water supplier if you need your water service restored. Public water suppliers must restore water to residences by April 12. The executive order remains in effect as long as Michigan is under a state of emergency related to coronavirus.

Price Gouging Gov. Whitmer has signed Executive Order 2020-8 to increase restrictions on retailers and resellers. It states that:

1. A person must not resell a product in Michigan at a price that is “grossly in excess of the purchase price.”
2. A person must not sell any product at a price that is more than 20% higher than what the person offered for that product as of March 9, 2020, unless the person demonstrates the price increase is attributable to an increase in the cost of bringing the product to the market.

In addition, Michigan’s Attorney General Dana Nessel is pushing for legislation to strengthen anti-price-gouging laws.

Fill out the Consumer Complaint/Inquiry Form on the State of Michigan website for new complaints: <https://secure.ag.state.mi.us/complaints/consumer.aspx> or call the Michigan

Attorney General Office hotline at 877-765-8388

Suicide prevention

- The Jason Foundation: <https://jasonfoundation.com/>
- Common Ground: <https://commongroundhelps.org/>
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255, and chat
- Lifeline Chat: <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat/>

Self-Care

There are many apps to help support mindfulness and reduce stress. Here are a few:

- **Breathe:** Free app for Apple and Android mobile devices
- **Calm:** Free website and mobile app for Apple and Android mobile devices with guided meditation and relaxation exercises
- **Stop, Breathe and Think:** Free website and mobile app for Apple and Android mobile devices for youth with meditations for mindfulness and compassion
- **What's Up:** Uses CBT and ACT methods to help you cope with Depression, Anxiety, and more
- **Mind Shift:** helps change how you think about anxiety by encouraging you to take charge of your life
- **Lifesum:** Allows you to set personal goals in order to promote a healthy body image and lifestyle
- **Not Ok:** Provides a red button that lets your support network know help is needed
- **A Daily Dose:** <https://adailydose.wixsite.com/mysite>
- Mental Health Awareness Workgroup: [Coping with the Stress of COVID19](#)

**Elissa Slotkin
Tele-Town Hall
Resources**

Rep. Slotkin and her staff continue to work remotely. Please contact me for any assistance we can offer at the federal level. Mona.Shand@mail.house.gov

Direct Financial Assistance

The CARES Act will provide \$1,200 in direct payments to taxpayers with incomes up to \$75,000 per year before starting to phase out and ending altogether for those earning more than \$99,000. Families will also receive an additional \$500 per child.

Everyone is eligible for this direct financial assistance as long as they have a Social Security Number and their household income is not above the cap. This includes Social Security beneficiaries (retirement, disability, survivor) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients. These payments do not count as income or resources for means-tested programs, which means that receiving the payments will not impact anyone's eligibility for SSI, SNAP, Medicaid, ACA premium credits, TANF, housing assistance, or other income-related federal programs. These payments will also not impact an individual's state or federal unemployment compensation benefits.

The exact distribution mechanism for this direct financial assistance is still being determined. Most people -- including everyone who filed a 2018 or 2019 tax return, as well as all Social Security beneficiaries -- will be paid automatically by the IRS. Others, including SSI recipients who often do not file taxes, may need to take additional action to receive their direct financial assistance. More details will be provided once they are available.

Unemployment Assistance

Through July 31, 2020, the federal government will provide a temporary Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) of \$600 a week for any worker eligible for state or federal unemployment compensation (UC) benefits. The FPUC will be paid in addition to

and at the same time as regular state or federal UC benefits.

The CARES Act will also allow states to expand unemployment compensation eligibility to workers who are not normally eligible for these benefits, so long as their unemployment was connected to the COVID-19 pandemic. Expanded eligibility would provide benefits to self-employed individuals, independent contractors, “gig economy” workers, and individuals who were unable to start a new job or contract due to the pandemic.

In addition to the supplemental federal unemployment compensation benefits and the expanded eligibility for unemployment compensation, the CARES act enables states to provide an additional 13 weeks of unemployment compensation to workers who need these benefits.

Finally, the CARES Act includes an expansion of “work sharing” programs to provide partial benefits to individuals with reduced hours. Under this bill, the federal government will temporarily provide full funding for states -- including Michigan -- who have Short-Time Compensation or “work sharing” programs in law. Under these programs, employers voluntarily make an agreement with the state unemployment office to prevent layoffs by reducing employee hours, and workers with reduced hours are eligible for partial state UC benefits.

If you lose your job during the coronavirus outbreak, you can apply for unemployment assistance here or by calling (866) 500-0017. Both business owners and employees are eligible to apply for unemployment benefits.

Student Loan Support

The CARES Act will automatically suspend payments on all federally-owned student loans until September 30, 2020. No interest will accrue on these loans during this suspension. While it may be difficult to contact student loan services right now due to the current surge in activity, borrowers should check their accounts online in the coming weeks to better understand their eligibility.

Small Business Assistance

The CARES Act provides \$349 billion for the Small Business Administration (SBA) to guarantee loans to small businesses under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). These PPP loans can be up to \$10 million and can be used to cover payroll costs, health care benefits, employee salaries, mortgage payments, rent, and more. The program allows complete deferment of loan payments for between 6-12 months and includes a loan forgiveness component for businesses that retain their workers or rehire ones that were laid off as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. Prospective borrowers can apply through banks, credit unions, and other lenders who have been approved to provide SBA guaranteed loans. Around 1,800 private lenders are currently approved, though Treasury Secretary Mnuchin has said the department plans to vastly expand the number of approved lenders.

The stimulus package also includes \$10 billion in funding for the SBA’s Emergency Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program. Michigan businesses now qualify for these Emergency Injury Disaster Loans through the Small Business Administration (SBA). You can visit the SBA’s website for an overview of the SBA’s response to the coronavirus, along with a list of resources. To apply for an EIDL loan, visit the SBA’s Disaster Loan Assistance website. We understand that the SBA website has crashed several times this week, due to high demand. I have been in touch with the SBA Regional Administrator for the Great Lakes Region and

they have assured me that they are working to improve the website’s capacity at this critical time.

Separately, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation’s (MEDC) call center stands ready to support businesses looking for assistance through other available state programs. For more information, visit MEDC’s website or call 888-522-0103. The Michigan Small Business Development Center can also provide resources for small businesses impacted by COVID-19.

**US Senator
Gary Peters –
Support for
Seniors
Newsletter**

<https://www.peters.senate.gov/coronavirus>

**Relaxing Rules
on Retirement
Savings**

Under the CARES Act, you may suspend the required minimum distributions paid from retirement accounts for 2020 and for 2019, due April 1. This way, you have flexibility, if resources allow, to leave money in the account, which could provide the opportunity for your retirement plan to rebound before withdrawal.

**Longer
Prescription
Refills**

This legislation requires Medicare Part D plans to offer up to 90-day prescription refills. To receive a 90-day refill, contact your care provider upon your next refill.

**Eliminate
Barriers to Care
in Homes and
Communities**

The CARES Act incorporates the Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act, supported by AARP, which would allow advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants to order Medicare and Medicaid home health care.

**Housing
Security**

This bill will protect Home Equity Conversion Mortgage borrowers from foreclosure for up to 60 days with extensions for up to 4 periods of 30 days each.

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Call or text 2-1-1

This hotline can connect you to services in our community

