

RESOURCES AVAILABLE DURING COVID-19

****Indicates support for Undocumented community**

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| <u>Food</u> | Includes pantries throughout the city and documentation and application requirements if applicable. |
| <u>Financial</u> | Energy Assistance, unemployment benefits and rights. Stimulus bill eligibility |
| <u>Healthcare</u> | Health centers for low income communities and testing sites |
| <u>Mental Health</u> | Site offering telehealth sessions |
| <u>Domestic Violence</u> | Resource and application process over the phone |
| <u>School Resources</u> | Access to internet, Learning and arts and crafts activities/websites for children |
| <u>Childcare</u> | Available mainly for essential providers and first responders |
| <u>Housing</u> | Legal rights for tenants and where to call to seek assistance |
| <u>Legal Assistance</u> | Housing and Immigration |
| <u>Board of Ed/City-wide updates</u> | |

FOOD NEW UPDATE AS OF 4/28/20

Beginning Tuesday, April 28, 2020, City of Norwalk, ABCD, Inc. & local food organizations & pantries team up to launch COVID-19 Food Delivery Program

WHO: If you live in **Norwalk** and do not have enough food because of COVID-19, Food Assistance Delivery can help.

WHEN:

MONDAY THRU FRIDAY 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

CALL: (475) 489-9119 to schedule a delivery

(ENGLISH / EN ESPAÑOL)

Due to demand, delivery can take up to five days

Eligibility: Any individual or family isolated or quarantined due to COVID-19 and unable to leave their homes to access other programs is eligible.

Food pantries are run by a wide range of organizations: pre-packaged grocery bags can include both nonperishable and fresh food products

SENIOR DIRECT:

Age 60 or older and in need of home delivery or referrals, please call:

Senior Services Coordinating Council at: 203-434-3085 or 203-434-1876

The Senior Center at: 203-847-3115 (ENGLISH) or 203-299-1500 (EN ESPAÑOL)

****Norwalk Public Schools**

Starting Monday, March 30 until further notice, meals for student ages 2-18 may now be picked up at 10 food centers across the city (see below) from 12 noon to 2 pm, Monday through Friday.

At these locations, families will have the option to “drive through” or walk up. For the health and safety of both families and staff, we will require that everyone maintain “social distancing,” meaning 6 feet of physical space between you and a non-family member. Crossing guards and security guards will be available to assist.

Monday – Friday, 12 noon to 2 pm.

|SCHOOL SITES

Brien McMahon High School, 300 Highland Avenue

Jefferson Elementary School, 75 Van Buren Avenue

Kendall Elementary School, 57 Fallow Street

Marvin Elementary School, 16 Calf Pasture Beach Road

Ponus Ridge Middle School, 21 Hunters Lane

Nathan Hale Middle School, 176 Strawberry Hill Avenue

Tracey Magnet School, 20 Camp Street

COMMUNITY SITES

Ben Franklin Community Center, 165 Flax Hill Road

Carver Community Center, 7 Academy Street

Nathaniel Ely Center (Maritime Odyssey Preschool), 11 Ingalls Avenue

[Available in Spanish here](#) - put this at top

New Life Church - ASK

Church based food pantry available for Norwalk residents in need every Wednesday from 6-7:15pm on a walk in basis. Individuals are encouraged to bring their own bag.

146 Main Street Norwalk, CT 0685

Phone 203-286-9820

****St Philip Church**

1 Father Conlon Place Norwalk, CT 06855; (203) 847-4549

Gives free food every Friday from 9:30 am to 11:00 am, no documentation needed just an ID.

****Open Doors Shelter**

4 Merritt Street

Norwalk, CT - 06854

203-866-1057

Website: <http://www.opendoorshelter.org>

Food pantry hours Monday through Friday 9:30AM-11:30AM. No documents required

Kitchen and pantry still operating

Salvation Army Norwalk* [See New Update for food pantry 4/2/2020](#)

14 Byington Pl, Norwalk, CT 06850 (203) 866-2125

At this time we are offering our Food Pantry services to families and individuals every two weeks if needed, no appointment needed. Citizenship status is not important, but we required them to fill a simple form, and to show a form of ID for our records, and to avoid people from overusing our resources. They can come to our location and we will serve them through the Social Services Office window, so they will remain in the entrance booth, which we try disinfect many times throughout the day. It's a fairly basic and simple process as we try to have food prepacked (there is no client choice at this moment). **New time update 4/2/2020** Our main office opens from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and the **Food pantry** service is from **9:00 AM to 12:00 PM Monday, Wednesday and Friday**. It's a form they complete here, basically one page with some basic lines of info. Once they fill it up we make a copy of their ID and give them the food. They don't enter the food pantry area or any other part of the building but the main entrance booth only.

Person-to-Person

New update for food delivery service 4/7/2020

The food delivery service is for individuals or head of households 70 and older.

76 S Main St, Norwalk, CT 06854 Hours of operation from 9am-1pm. For **food** and **financial assistance**, call 203-655-0048. Can also assess for financial needs virtually (mostly via email) to limit contact. Providing food to qualifying clients in our catchment area. Clients first need to complete paperwork and if eligible will be provided pre-packed food every 30 days.

Appointment to speak w/ case worker needed.

Application is saved to Drive. They are also requiring an ID, birth certificates for the children and also proof of address. Financial assistance is difficult at this time due to the shutdown, however they are doing their best to provide financially as well.

Contact for providers only: Claudine Jean-Baptiste, MSW LCSW 203 621-0693

claudinejeanbaptiste@p2phelps.org

New Update as of 4/24/2020

Clients who need to use the food pantry will be required to call first and complete a short form. Once complete, this form will be eventually put into their system.

The main number to call for the food pantry and financial assistance is 203-621-0699.

Food is provided monthly. Clients should receive a new date to pick up food each time they visit the pantry, which should be on a monthly basis. They are required to call prior to visiting the pantry each time.

If the client would like to know if they have been assigned a worker, the number to call is 203-939-1650.

Fairfield County Farmer's Markets

<https://guide.ctnofa.org/g/fairfield-county-ct>

****Restaurant Deals**

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/life/a31911758/free-meals-food-deals-coronavirus/>

FINANCIAL

Energy Assistance/ Fuel Oil

The ban on utility shut offs does not apply to fuel oil. Operation Fuel is taking applications for help and can be reached out 860-243-2346 or at <http://www.info@operationfuel.org/>

Income Security

Public Assistance- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. These are cash benefits available online at: www.ct.gov/access/isp/access/jsp/access/Home/jsp

Unemployment Insurance Benefits

If you lost your job you can file for unemployment benefits at www.filectui.com

Immigrants that have work permits are permitted to apply for unemployment*

Gov. Lamont suspended the requirement for furloughed workers to prove that they are actively searching for work in order to obtain ongoing unemployment benefits. The state Department of Labor says people should file claims online by clicking <http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/UI-Online/index.htm> where they say those claims will be expedited. It's reported that while job centers remain open at this time for unemployment benefits, but there will be significant delays for any in-person business.

Unemployment Rights

Below is a link to a YouTube video created by Attorney Anthony Pantuso. He is a civil rights attorney and has created this video to inform people of their unemployment rights during the COVID crisis.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=umfbtvZVD7w>

The Fairfield County Community Foundation (FCCF)

Fairfield County COVID-19 Resiliency Fund with an emphasis on vulnerable groups including the immigrant and undocumented immigrant community.

Please note that we are moving quickly to disburse funds so let me share a few things that are in the works but are not certain until FCCF provides an official update (via our website link above so please keep checking back for updates):

- Currently, we are considering making the COVID-19 Resiliency Fund grants an additional opportunity above and beyond our typical grant opportunities;
- The grant application will be much simpler and faster than any other grant process FCCF has used in the past; and
- We are working on the range of funding for the COVID-19 Resiliency Fund grants and will provide that information as soon as possible.

For updates: <https://fccfoundation.org/an-important-update-our-response-to-covid-19/>

People's Bank

Branches are assisting clients by appointment only. Traditional branch hours will be 9-2 M-F and 9-12 on Saturday. Stop and Shop branches are 2-7 M-F and 11-2 on Saturday. Those without appointment will have to wait until the others are done with theirs.

Stimulus Bill

US Citizens, green card holders, DACA recipients, immigrants with work authorization/SSN are eligible.

Tax-paying immigrants with ITIN not eligible...

HEALTHCARE

Access Health CT

New special enrollment period for uninsured CT Residents

<https://agency.accesshealthct.com/access-health-ct-announces-a-new-special-enrollment-period-for-uninsured-connecticut-residents>

Test Collection Sites/Call Centers

COVID-19 call centers in Norwalk and around the state have medical staff to answer your questions, screen you for symptoms, and help you with next steps if you meet criteria for testing.

However, **each site may operate differently, including hours, procedures, cost, and turnaround time for results. Also, these details may change over time.** Please call sites for details.

- Nuvance Health COVID-19 Community Hotline: 888-667-9262; open daily, 8 am - 6 pm ([Nuvance Health COVID-19 page](#) includes Frequently Asked Questions about testing.)
- Murphy Medical Associates (multiple testing locations): <https://coronatestct.com/>
- Stamford Hospital Call Center: 203-276-4111; open daily, 7 am - 7 pm
- Yale New Haven Health Call Center: 203-ASK-YNHH; open daily, 7 am - 7 pm

Do not arrive at a collection site without calling ahead first. Collection sites require a doctor's order. Sites operated by physician's office may be able to provide the order and the test.

If you don't have a doctor, please contact your health insurance company to find one or call one of the Community Health Centers listed below. If you do not have health insurance or a doctor, call one of Norwalk's community health centers to establish care.

- Norwalk Community Health Center: (203) 899-1770
- Day Street Community Health Center: (203) 854-9292

The Health Department will work to keep this information up-to-date as testing capabilities expand.

Norwalk Community Health Center

If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath) and feel you may have been exposed to the coronavirus please do not go to a doctor's office or emergency department in person without calling ahead and speaking to a health care provider. If you do not have health insurance or a doctor, call one of Norwalk's community health centers to establish care. Offers sliding scale, serves undocumented population, need to go through eligibility application process. Present picture ID (Can be from home country), proof of address and income (can be notarized letter stating how much they earn).

****Charity Care**

Undocumented individuals can still seek treatment at the hospital, if they become ill. They can apply for charity care. This is a process and they will need to provide standard information like paystubs, bank account info, etc. Obviously if they are not working, they would indicate that. If they are being seen at the hospital and are uninsured, they should ask to apply for charity care. This also trickles over to psychiatric emergencies and care. I do have a client that was eligible for this and is undocumented. The link to instructions and participating hospitals under **Hartford Healthcare** is below.

<https://hartfordhospital.org/financial-assistance>

Norwalk Hospital

<https://www.norwalkhospital.org/patient-and-visitors-info/billing/billing/financial-assistance-policy>

MENTAL HEALTH

The DVCC

Is providing counseling free of charge via tele-health services. The contact is Janeen Savini. Best to contact her via email at jsavini@dvccct.org or her cell at (203) 918-7013.

Family Centers is offering tele-health for both medical and mental health. Clients who are utilizing Family Centers services can access tele-health by clicking on the below referenced link:

<https://www.familycenters.org/enrollment>

Their Family First in Education is providing parental support through videoconferencing. See link below:

<https://www.familyfirstineducation.org/>

They are also providing limited literacy volunteers through videoconferencing. See link below:

<https://www.familycenters.org/Literacy-Volunteers>

Wilton Youth Council

Parent Community/Support Discussion Zoom form

April 2nd and 3rd

<https://susanbauerfeld.com/free-covid-19-parent-community-support-discussion-zoom-forum/>

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Restraining orders - Victims of DV can apply online by visiting CTSafeConnect.org They can also call 888-774-2900. Confidential, safe, free and voluntary. 24/7.

DVCC - is conducting a telehealth domestic violence support group for Spanish speaking clients. The contact is Doris Urteaga. Her email address is durteaga@dvccct.org. She will need to do an intake by phone, if the client has never been a DVCC client. Also, DVCC referrals in general may be forwarded to Janeen Savini at (203) 918-7013 or jsavini@dvccct.org.

Family Justice Center for B'port (what's their area of service?)

SCHOOL RESOURCES

Altice - Free internet for students k-12/college for 60 days

866-200-9522 to enroll in Optimum region

888-633-0030 to enroll in Suddenlink region

<https://www.alticeadvantageinternet.com/>

For current customers: during COVID-19, will not terminate services, will waive late fees and open WiFi hotspots

Elementary School- list of 10 free websites for learning + educational games:

<https://www.common sense.org/education/top-picks/10-great-free-websites-for-elementary-school>

Preschool websites:

- Storyline
 - <https://www.storylineonline.net/>
- Go noodle (Videos and games are created by their team of child development experts working with choreographers, athletes, mindfulness experts, and developers who specialize in kid content)
 - <https://www.gonoodle.com/>
- Epic (Online digital library kids 12 and under) free for 30 days
 - <https://www.getepic.com/>
- The kid coach

Scholastic

<https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome.html>

Free online courses for 3 hours of learning per day with up to 4 weeks of instruction. Mainly for grades k-5.

Subject: English Language Arts, STEM, Science, social studies and social-emotional learning.

“Operation Story Time”

<https://coolprogeny.com/2020/03/operation-storytime/>

Crafts & Activities for kids

<https://www.thebestideasforkids.com/>

Kids Yoga

<https://www.cosmickids.com/>

CHILDCARE

Birth to Three As of March 29th **Family Cost Participation fees are waived** as are any new suspensions of services due to nonpayment. If you have not yet been referred to a program, we are accepting referrals at 800-505-7000.

Families can complete the Ages and Stages Questionnaire online in English

<https://www.asqonline.com/family/0ba1ca> or in Spanish at

<https://www.asqonline.com/family/337104>

Stratford United Methodist Preschool

Remains open for essential personnel and first responders. If their daycare has closed during the crisis, SUMC is accepting children 6 weeks-5 years. They can be reached at 203-386-1818.

Hours of operation are from 7:30-5

Waterbury YMC -

providing free child care center for first responders & hospital workers. (WE UNDERSTAND THIS IS FAR FROM NORWALK). Rose Hill building at 63 Prospect St. It runs from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on weekdays, but the schedule may be expanded if necessary, said Kristen Jones, child development director. Parents can drop off and pickup their children anytime. *To sign your child up for the Greater Waterbury YMCA's emergency child care program, or for information, call 475-233-8705 or email or kjones@waterburyymca.org*

HOUSING ISSUES

Anne Keegan, Fair Housing: (203) 854-7989

The Norwalk Human Relations and Fair Rent department can answer questions about landlord/tenant rights and responsibilities, and questions about discrimination based on a protected class in employment and public accommodation. She is working home but monitoring voice messages and calling people back and answering emails

Housing Protections **UPDATE: as of 4/8/2020 there is a stay of Evictions for the next 90-120 days.**

Procedures for evicting tenants in Connecticut's housing court have been suspended until at least April 1. This means that people facing evictions may get some relief. If a person has an eviction pending, they can call the housing session where their home is located or Statewide Legal Services for more information at 800-453-3320.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Connecticut Legal Services - Anyone experiencing housing issues can call Connecticut Legal Services at (203) 348-9216. If the client is Spanish speaking, they may still leave a message in Spanish as the legal assistants speak Spanish. They should leave their name, number and indicate whether or not they have been served with some type of notice. CLS will perform a conflict check and if that checks out they will reach out to the client for an intake. **AS OF 4/8/2020 THERE IS CURRENTLY A STAY OF EVICTIONS IN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT FOR THE FOLLOWING 90-120 DAYS.** THERE WILL NOT BE ANY IMMEDIATE EVICTIONS. Courts are not processing this action at this time.

Building One Community 4/29/2020 - Appointments are done via Zoom. For legal assistance and other services clients must call 203-391-4084

BOARD OF EDUCATION/CITY-WIDE UPDATES - Updated 5/7/20

***** Per Governor's executive order, in-school class cancellations remain in effect through the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. *****
Norwalk- Schools closed until further notice. Distance learning started 3/16. No distance learning 4/10/20 for Good Friday. -> [Norwalk City Updates](#)

Westport- Schools closed until further notice. Distance Learning started 3/17 -> [Westport Town Updates](#)

Weston-- Length of District Closure -- We have no clarity on the likely length of District closure. We will only reopen when approved by the Weston-Westport Health District and the Town of Weston Emergency Operation Center (EOC). Districts that have given estimates for return dates have done so in highly tentative ways, which likely will have to change. We would ask that all staff and families be patient with this hard fact: we do not know when we will be able to return.

Weston Public Schools will enter Phase Two of its distance learning initiative on Monday, March 23, thus fully making the transition from 'Campus to Cloud.' We would like you and your child to think of Monday as the first day of school. Until Monday 3/23, students should continue to work on their Extended Learning Opportunities. -> [Weston Town Updates](#)

Wilton- Schools closed until further notice. Distance Learning started 3/17-> [Wilton Town Updates](#), [Extended Closure Distance Learning Plan](#)

Darien - Schools closed. Distance learning will be in place until further notice. -> [Darien Town Updates](#) 4/16/20

New Canaan - Given the fluidity of the situation locally and regionally, and in partnership with the Health Department and the EOC, school will be closed until further notice. Will be adjusted if necessary based upon future circumstances. [New Canaan Town Updates](#) [E-Learning Information](#) 4/16/20

Stamford - Schools closed until further notice. Distance Learning started 3/17. C.R.O.P. is cancelled until further notice. No distance learning 4/10/20. -> [Stamford Town Updates](#)