

Caring Communities

In Response to COVID-19 the Department of Social Services has announced several benefits or extensions:

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is extended from March 31, 2020 to May 31, 2020 for Missourians who have not previously applied. For those meeting income guidelines it provides a one-time payment for their primary heating bills from November through May 31, 2020. To be eligible for the program, low-income Missourians must:

- Be responsible for paying home heating costs,
- Have \$3,000 or less in bank accounts, retirement accounts, or investments,
- Have a household income less than 135 percent of the federal poverty level (a monthly income of \$2,400 for a family of three or \$2,897 for family of four) and,
- Be a U.S. citizen or legally admitted for permanent residence.

Missourians may also qualify for **the Energy Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP)** that helps pay fuel bills when a household's energy is shut off, threatened to be shut off, or if the household is in threat of disconnection, but may not have received a disconnection notice. Although energy providers may not be shutting off utilities at the present time, it is very important for low-income Missourians that have received a notice or know a notice will be coming to get help now to prevent service disconnection at a later date." The amount of Energy Crisis Intervention Program

Friday: April 3, 2020
Northeast Missouri Caring Communities, Inc.

[Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program](#)

[Energy Crisis Intervention Program](#)

[P-SNAP](#)

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help is based on the amount of money needed to settle a household's crisis with the energy provider. The maximum amount is \$800 for the winter ECIP program that runs from November through May. To apply for one or both programs, households just need to complete one application form and then mail or fax the form to the office serving their community listed on last page of the application.

To apply for LIHEAP or ECIP Schuyler, Scotland and Knox county residents will need to contact to the Community Action Partnership in Kirksville 660-665-9855 Monday –Thursday 8-5:30

P-SNAP

The Pandemic Food Stamp/Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (P-SNAP) will allow all households currently eligible for SNAP to receive the maximum amount for their household size for March and April. Anyone who is currently eligible for SNAP will automatically receive P-SNAP. Your benefit will be the maximum amount depending on your household size. You do not need to do anything to get P-SNAP. This benefit will be loaded to your EBT card automatically.

Households will receive P-SNAP for March and April:

- March P-SNAP benefits will be loaded to your card automatically by April 3rd
- April P-SNAP benefits will be automatically loaded to your card on the day you normally receive your SNAP benefit.

It is unclear if P-SNAP benefits will continue beyond April. Questions or if you didn't receive your March P-SNAP call 1-855-FSD- INFO OR 1-855-373-4636

P-EBT

Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) is a temporary SNAP benefit available while schools are closed for households with children who receive free and reduced lunch at school.

This benefit is available to all Missouri families with children who are:

- Eligible for free and reduced price lunch in a Missouri school district
- Currently unable to attend school for 5 consecutive days due to school closure.

If you already receive SNAP benefits, the P-EBT will be loaded onto your EBT card automatically as soon as it is approved.

If you do not receive SNAP benefits, you will need to apply for P-EBT through a special application process. The application process and more details will be provided as soon as it is approved and available. We do not know when the P-EBT benefits will be available, but we will provide updates as soon as possible.

NOTE: Families may receive the free meals from the school and still be eligible for the P-EBT when it becomes available.

Area Food Room Information

NOTE: All food rooms are requesting you remain in your car. Do not get out.

Knox County Food Cupboard

April Food Room date is Tuesday April 7th Hours are 8-2

May Food Room date is Friday May 8th

Questions: Carolyn Snelling 660-397-2322

North Park Centre—Schuyler Food Room

April Food Room Dates are Friday April 10th and Monday April 13th

May Food Room Dates are Friday May 15th and Monday May 18th

Hours are: 9-Noon and 1-4

If you are new to the food room, just show up. That is all you need to do for the April dates. The great staff of volunteers will assist you, when it is your turn.

Questions: Norm Garr 660-216-2446

Scotland County Food Pantry

May Food Room date is Friday May 8th 8-2

Questions: Carol Dryden 660-341-0611 or Dan Hite 660-465-2142 or 660-216-6364

Area Schools Providing Weekday Breakfast and Lunch

Schuyler R-I School District

Breakfast and lunch are provided Monday-Friday during the school closure. Meals can be picked up between 9-11 am. Meals are free to Schuyler residents 18 and under. Note: This includes children not enrolled in the school but living in the county. You must register your children with the school for the meals. If you or someone you know would like the meals but transportation is an issue please call NEMOCC 660-457-3535.

Please Note: The schools in **Scotland** and **Knox** are providing meals (breakfast and lunch) to county residents 18 and under along with transportation (delivery routes), if you live in either of these counties please contact your local school district to register your children.

CARES

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, & Economic Security (CARES) Act:

Direct Relief for Missourians

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which was signed into law on March 27th, provides a number of supports to states, families and individuals which are intended to provide economic relief and counteract some of the damaging effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Among the most critical provisions, the CARES Act provides "recovery rebates" for nearly every household and expands unemployment assistance for those most impacted by job loss due to the declining economy.

Rebates for Households The CARES Act authorizes direct one-time payments to individuals and families through "recovery rebates" of \$1,200 per adult (\$2,400 for a married couple) and \$500 per dependent child age 16 or younger. The payments phase out for individuals earning more than \$75,000 per year and couples earning over \$150,000. That means a family of four with two children under age 17 earning \$150,000 or less can expect a payment of \$3,400 (income limits for the full credit are based on adjusted gross income).

These cash payments are based on 2018 or 2019 tax filings. However, some seniors and others with no tax liability who do not typically file taxes will need to do so in order to receive the rebate. They will only need to file a simple return, and the IRS has a number of resources available on their website to assist with filing simple tax returns (see <https://www.irs.gov/filing/free-file-do-your-federal-taxes-for-free> for more information).

The rebates will begin to reach households in April, but those who have electronic deposit mechanisms established will receive the funds most quickly.

These relief payments do not extend to all individuals and households. Groups excluded from these payments include:

- Dependents age 17 and over are ineligible for the additional \$500 payment, including 17- or 18-year old children or adults who can be claimed as a dependent (say a disabled sibling or a frail parent).
- Immigrant families that include any members without a Social Security Number, including families whose children are U.S. citizens.

Expanded Unemployment Insurance (UI)

Both the CARES Act and the “Families First Coronavirus Response Act,” signed into law on March 18, 2020, make significant changes to unemployment assistance, increasing the benefits and broadening who is eligible. Though states will still continue to pay regular unemployment benefits, the bills included significant federal funds to support enhanced and extended benefits, and new Pandemic Unemployment programs.

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act authorized full federal funding for extended unemployment benefits and provided additional funding

to states to support administrative costs. Missouri law currently provides 20 weeks of Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits at a maximum of \$320 per week

The extended unemployment (EU) allows for an additional 26 weeks, once certain triggers are met, and would be fully federally funded.

How the Unemployment Programs Work Together

	Those Eligible for Missouri's Unemployment Insurance (UI)	Those Eligible for the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) <i>(contractors, part-time workers, self-employed)</i>
Regular Unemployment (UI)	Up to 20 weeks	Ineligible
Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)	Available after Regular UI benefits are exhausted	Up to 39 weeks
Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (PUC)	Additional \$600 per week compensation available through July 31, 2020	Available through July 31, 2020
Pandemic Emergency Unemployment (PEUC)	13 weeks	
Traditional Extended Unemployment (EU)– <i>available only if triggered</i>	Up to 26 weeks available (if triggered) ¹⁸	

The CARES Act created three additional and new, fully federally funded unemployment insurance (UI) programs.

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA): Funds emergency assistance to workers who do not traditionally qualify for UI (such as the self-employed, freelancers, contractors and part-time workers) as well as those who have exhausted UI benefits. To qualify, one must meet criteria showing that their job or that of a family member has been impacted by COVID-19. The program provides 39 weeks of assistance and is operational from January 1 – December 31, 2020. Retroactive benefits are available for those who meet the qualifications.

Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (PUC): Funds an additional \$600 per week in compensation for all traditional UI recipients as well as PUA recipients. This compensation is a flat rate that will be provided on top of the compensation paid by the state's regular UI program. The program is authorized through July 31, 2020.

Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC): Funds an additional 13 weeks of unemployment insurance after exhausting the maximum number of weeks allowed by the state's regular UI program. The PEUC will be provided prior to the traditional extended unemployment, assuming the extended benefits are triggered.

The Missouri Department of Labor has enacted a number of changes that will both ensure that the state will be able to leverage federal funds to support the programs, and that Missourians will have access to these new federal assistance programs, in addition to regular unemployment benefits. The Department of Labor is encouraging unemployment claims to be submitted online, and has videos available to help first-time filers. In addition, the state has eliminated requirements to participate in work search activities to be eligible for benefits during the pandemic, and is working to waive the "waiting week" generally required to access benefits.

NOTE: Wait times are long if calling 1-800-320-2519. Please visit their website labor.mo.gov. Most questions can be answered by watching the videos or using the virtual assistant, otherwise be prepared to patiently wait, as you could be on hold for a long time.

How to Apply for DSS Benefits and Services

The fastest way to find basic information about Food Stamp, Medicaid, Temporary Assis-




tance for Needy Families, and Child Care Subsidy benefits and who may qualify is to visit the DSS website. Applicants can apply for services any time of day. Simply fill out an appli-

DO YOU QUALIFY FOR BENEFITS?

If you lost income or health insurance due to COVID-19, you may now qualify for help.

Rectangular Snip

Monthly Income per Family Size




	Food Stamp (SNAP)	TANF (Cash Assistance)*	Medicaid for Kids**	Medicaid for Families	Help paying for Child Care
	\$1,832	\$234	\$4,310	\$234	\$1,944
	\$2,311	\$292	\$5,430	\$292	\$2,454
	\$2,790	\$342	\$6,550	\$342	\$2,961


*A child must be present in the home to qualify.
**Some income levels require a monthly premium.

NOTE: There are more requirements to qualify, not just income. Visit mydss.mo.gov to learn more.

HOW TO APPLY

If you think you may qualify for benefits, you can apply in one of these ways:

-  Visit myDSS.mo.gov
-  Call 1-855-FSD-INFO (1-855-373-4636)
-  Email or fax your application and documents to FSD.Documents@dss.mo.gov or 573-526-9400



Questions?
Call 1-855-FSD-INFO (1-855-373-4636)

cation form online or download and send a completed application and the necessary documents by email or fax.

First-time applicants who may be unfamiliar with the eligibility criteria for Food Stamp, Medicaid, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or Child Care Subsidy benefit programs need to keep in mind that these programs are for low-income Missourians and some household incomes may still be too high to qualify, despite a family member's job loss. Missourians can apply for services 24/7 online by visiting DSS.mo.gov, or sending completed appli-

cations and verification documents by email to FSD.Documents@dss.mo.gov, or by fax to 573-526-9400. Missourians who have questions or need assistance can call: 855- FSD-INFO or 855-373-4636 Monday through Friday, 6:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Free WiFi access points compliments of NEMR Telecom

<p><i>Green City 16 N. Sherman Memphis-135 S. Clay Novinger-301 Main Queen City-629 Olive Unionville- 223 S 17th & at City Park Milan-Northwest corner of the square Luray-On Elizabeth St. Omaha-1/4 mile South on Hwy 149 Martinstown-Hwy W & 149 intersection</i></p> <p>#NTCAcares</p>	 <p>FREE Wi Fi</p> <p>HERE WHEN OUR COMMUNITIES NEED US MOST</p>	<p><i>Lemons-226 St. Pollock-6th St. Arbela-Hwy H & 136 Brock-Hwy 15 & C Rutledge-Hwy M by highway shed Tobin Creek-1 ¼ miles South of D on 15 Winigan-Between Main & Woodburn Dr. Green Castle-Hwy 6 & FF intersection</i></p> 
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Northeast Missouri Caring Communities, Inc.

660-457-3535

www.nemocc.org



Please find us on Facebook and Like and Follow for current information.

Note: The sources for this information include: Department of Social Services (press releases, FAQs, and flyers), the newsletters of the Missouri Budget Project & North Park Centre, sharefoodbringhope.org and Facebook pages for Schuyler, Scotland, and Knox schools, and NEMR Telecom.