

ELLINGTON COVID-19 INFORMATION & COMMUNITY RESOURCE GUIDE

The Town of Ellington Human Services continues to assist residents while Town Offices remain closed to the public. Please call us if you need assistance.

Temporary Hours: Monday – Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Friday – Closed

Contact information: (860) 870-3128 or humanservices@ellington-ct.gov

**The information below does not include all programs/services and is not an endorsement for the programs and services mentioned. Much of the Information provided below was retrieved from uwc.211ct.org or gained from resources provided by other towns.

COVID-19 Related Questions

Center for Disease Control and Prevention www.CDC.gov

North Central District Health Department www.ncdhd.org

Hartford Healthcare 24 Hour Hotline 860-972-8100 or www.Hartfordhealthcare.org/coronavirus

State Coronavirus Website www.portal.ct.gov/coronavirus

Dial 2-1-1 - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for up to date information about the State of Connecticut's response to COVID-19 or visit www.ct.gov/coronavirus.

211 is also a resource for community based programs and information.

Updates from Governor Lamont can be found here: <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Pages/Governors-Press-Releases>

Unemployment Benefits

Individuals unemployed due to COVID-19 are encouraged to apply for unemployment benefits, even if they would not normally be eligible. Eligibility will be determined on a case-by-case basis. To file a claim, visit www.filectui.com and click the blue button. For a comprehensive guide to unemployment benefits, visit <http://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/DOLCOVIDFAQ.PDF>.

Don't have access to file a claim online? Can a family member, friend, or neighbor help? If not, call our office for assistance.

Emergency Financial Assistance

Individuals struggling financially with food, fuel, or other emergency expenses should contact our office so we can determine eligibility for one time emergency assistance or for any state or federal benefits and programs. Documentation is required in order to establish eligibility.

Health Insurance

You can contact the CT Department of Social Services 855-626-6632 or www.connect.ct.gov regarding applying for HUSKY A, B, C or D. This includes the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) and Long Term Care Services.

Rental Assistance

As of March 20, all eviction orders have been suspended through May 1. This means that a State Marshal cannot serve an individual with an execution eviction order, physically remove them or their belongings from the apartment, or change the locks before May 1st. Landlords can still serve tenants with court papers and file a new eviction case, but the court is not holding hearings or trials right now, until further notice.

Foreclosures & Mortgage Assistance

All foreclosure sales previously scheduled to have occurred in Connecticut in April or May are rescheduled to June 6th, 2020. Homeowners who have been laid off or have lost income/work hours should contact their mortgage company about getting a forbearance on their mortgage. Single family homeowners with Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac have a 60-day stay on foreclosures and evictions. Multi-family property owners with mortgages through Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac will be granted a 60-day forbearance with the condition that they suspend all evictions for renters unable to pay rent. Additionally, as of March 18, single-family homeowners with FHA-insured mortgages are protected from foreclosure for 60 days. Homeowners in need of additional mortgage counseling and assistance can visit 211ct.org

Shelter

If you are in need of shelter, please dial 2-1-1 or go to <https://www.211ct.org/>. 2-1-1 will direct you to the nearest shelter that has an available bed.

Utility Assistance

Connecticut's Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) has ordered a moratorium on all utility shut-offs (electric, gas, and water) for the next 30 days, or as long as the Public Health and Civil Preparedness Emergency is in effect. Customers are strongly encouraged to continue paying their bills, as they will ultimately be responsible for accrued services. This ruling applies to all residential customers and is therefore unlike the Winter Protection Program where income protected households are protected from shut off through May 1st.

For more information about Energy Assistance please contact our office.

Food Resources

Ellington Human Services – 31 Arbor Way, Arbor Commons, Ellington CT 06029 **Phone: (860) 870-3128**

Crystal Lake Food Pantry – 278 Sandy Beach Rd (Route 140), Ellington, CT 06029 **Phone: (860) 872-0798**

Hockanum Valley Community Council Food Pantry – 29 Naek Road, Suite 5A, Vernon Phone: **(860) 872-7727**

Mobile Foodshare – Pre-registration and identification are not required. Mobile Foodshare will be at the Ellington LDS Church at 2 Maple Street every other Thursday; April 23 is the next scheduled date. Please bring bags with you.

Cornerstone Soup Kitchen – 15 Prospect Street, Vernon. Monday – Sunday 11:30am for lunch and Monday – Friday 5:00pm for dinner. Meals are served in to-go containers. **Please call 860-871-1823 for more information.**

Meals on Wheels continues to be available to homebound seniors. Please call our office for more information or call Community Renewal Team (CRT) directly at 860-560-5848.

Ellington Public Schools - Grab and Go Pantry - Ellington Public Schools is offering a grab & go breakfast and lunch at Ellington High School between 7:30am – 9:00am and 11:30am – 1:00pm. All children from families in need are eligible to receive a free meal, as long as they are under 18 and one child attends the Ellington Public Schools. In addition, a temporary food bank is available during the grab & go service hours to assist those families.

Grocery stores have set up special hours for seniors and some are offering curbside pick-up. Use local delivery services and/or grab-n-go situations when possible (Local grocery stores are offering deliveries and/or try Insta-cart or Amazon Prime.) Please contact your local grocery store for more information.

www.bigy.com or 860-896-0457

<https://stopandshop.com/> or 860-871-0498

<https://www.geisslers.com/> or 860-749-7339

<https://www.aldi.us/> or 855-955-2534

SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) helps low income individuals and families buy food. To find out about eligibility please call our office or you can call the CT Department of Social Services at 1-855-626-6632 or www.connect.ct.gov

Restaurants

Most local restaurants are open for business and are offering takeout and/or delivery services. Please contact your favorite restaurant for more information. Also, services such as Grub Hub, Door Dash and Uber Eats provide delivery services.

Pharmacies/Prescriptions

It is recommended that you obtain extra medication to have on hand during the COVID-19 outbreak. Please consider using mail-order during this time, if your insurance company allows.

Additionally, pharmacies such as CVS, Walgreens, Big Y, Stop and Shop, etc. may be offering free delivery of prescriptions. Please contact your pharmacy directly for more information.

Transportation

HVCC (Hockanum Valley Community Council) Dial a Ride is providing rides to anyone 60 years or older to the grocery store between 6:30am and 8:00 am. They also provide medical and other transportation. **Call 860-870-7940 for more information.**

Taxes

The Deadline to file and pay both federal and CT State income taxes has been extended until July 15th. Please visit irs.gov/coronavirus and portal.ct.gov/DRS/COVID19/DRS-COVID-19-Response-FAQ for up to date information.

Currently VITA sites are closed until further notice. Visit IRS.gov for a variety of online resources and tax help including tax forms, instructions and publications, online payment options and to file with [IRS Free File](#) – free for most taxpayers.

Financial Assistance for Small Businesses

Connecticut Recovery Bridge Loan Program: Connecticut businesses with less than 100 employees impacted by COVID-19 may apply for a one-year, no-interest loan of up to \$75,000 through the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD).

Federal Disaster Assistance Loans: The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is offering low-interest federal disaster loans to small businesses suffering substantial economic injury as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). These loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact. The interest rate is 3.75% for small businesses without credit available elsewhere; businesses with credit available elsewhere are not eligible. The interest rate for non-profits is 2.75%. SBA offers loans with long-term repayments in order to keep payments affordable. Terms are determined on a case-by-case basis. To apply, visit www.sba.gov/disaster or call the SBA at 1-800-659-2955.

Additional Help: DECD has created a COVID-19 Business Emergency Response Unit dedicated to assisting businesses navigate resources and develop new resources. The Business Emergency Response Unit can be reached at 860-500-2333.

Learn More: For additional assistance available to businesses, including tax information and other measures, visit <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Information-For/Business-Resources>.

Mental Health

Call 211 to be connected with mobile crisis support for individuals and/or children or visit www.211ct.org

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Health): Call 800-950-NAMI (6264) or text NAMI to 741741

The NAMI Helpline can be reached Monday through Friday, 10 am–6 pm, ET.

1-800-950-NAMI (6264) or info@nami.org

Legal Help

GHLA (Greater Hartford Legal Aid): Free to low-income residents of Greater Hartford. Attorneys are available to talk to you about issues such as: Landlord/Tenant, Special Education, Public Benefits, HUSKY/Medicaid, Unemployment Compensation, Paid Leave, and Compensation for Crime Victims.

- Call (860) 541-5070 or visit www.ctlawhelp.org
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Town Resources

Town Website: www.ellington-ct.gov

Town Facebook: www.facebook.com/townofellington

Human Services Facebook: www.facebook.com/EllingtonHumanServices

Youth Services Facebook: www.facebook.com/EllingtonYouthServ

Senior Center Facebook: www.facebook.com/Ellington-Senior-Center-547859522023852

Public Access TV: Community Voice Channel www.cvcct.org

- Comcast Channels 1070, 95/1090, and 96/1084
 - Frontier Channels 6013, 6014 and 6015
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Closures

Senior Center: The Ellington Senior Center is closed to the public. Staff checks emails and voicemails during regular business hours. Programming is being done remotely via Zoom and other methods. Please check their Facebook account for more information. Transportation services have been temporarily cancelled as well. Persons in need of Transportation can contact Hockanum Valley Community Council (860) 870-7940.

Hall Memorial Library: Hall Memorial Library is closed to the public. Please contact them for more information. 860-870-3160 or <http://library.ellington-ct.gov/>

Town Hall: Town Hall is closed to the public. Staff is available to answer calls and emails during normal business hours.

Recreation: Town recreational programs are currently closed. Public trails remain open and residents are asked to adhere to safe distancing. <http://parkrec.ellington-ct.gov/>

Youth Services: In-person Youth Services programs have been cancelled for the foreseeable future. Please follow them on Facebook for their virtual programming. Children and their families who need counseling services can contact Diane Lasher-Penti dpenti@ellington-ct.gov or Jane Roets jroets@ellington-ct.gov.

Elections

The presidential primary originally scheduled for April 28, 2020 has been rescheduled to Tuesday, June 2, 2020. Please contact your political party for more information.

Scams

The Department of Consumer Protection (800-842-2649 or <https://portal.ct.gov/dcp>) and Office of the Attorney General (860-808-5318 or <https://portal.ct.gov/AG/Common/Complaint-Form-Landing-page>) should be contacted if you feel you have been the victim of a scam or noticed marketplace issues.

Fraud related to COVID-19 should be reported to the National Center for Disaster Fraud 866-720-5721 or disaster@leo.gov

What you can do to help

- Call and check-in on neighbors and loved-ones.
- Heed the warnings issued by the Government.
- Social Distance yourself from others.
- Make a financial donation to Human Services. We accept monetary donations for our Food Bank, Fuel Bank or our General Account – which covers rent, medical and other emergency assistance. We also accept gift cards. Call us for more information.
- Volunteer to make masks.
- Support local businesses/restaurants by purchasing gift cards or to-go meals.
- Turn off the TV and read, do puzzles, knit, draw, or any other hobby that provides mental stimulation.