



Town of West Hartford Social Services Department Newsletter Spring 2025

www.westhartfordct.gov/socialservices

Our hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Find us on Facebook at:
Town of West Hartford Social Services
and
West Hartford Prevention Partnership



Resources and Updates:

Energy Assistance:

The last day to order oil is April 1st and the last day to establish eligibility for benefits is May 30th. Community Renewal Team (CRT) may be able to assist you with your home-heating costs! Contact CRT to schedule an in-person appointment at (860) 560-5800. You can also apply online via the State of CT Department of Social Services (DSS) website: www.ct.gov/heatinghelp

Tax Relief Programs that help Elderly and Disabled Homeowners:

The Town offers two tax relief programs to help eligible elderly (age 65+) and disabled residents with their tax bills. They are the Local Elderly Property Tax Freeze program and the State of Connecticut Elderly or 100% Disabled Homeowners Program. The filing period for both programs is February 1st through May 15th of each year. Please call 860-561-7474, option 4 for more information.

The Renter's Rebate Program:

State law provides a rent reimbursement program for Connecticut renters who are 65+ or totally disabled, and whose income does not exceed certain limits. Applications will be mailed at the end of March and distributed at housing sites. Appointments will be scheduled for Town Hall starting April 2nd and staff will also be working at each of the senior housing sites in April and May to complete applications. The Renter's Rebate program application period begins April 1st and ends September 30th. Please call 860-561-7560 for more information.

Holiday Closings:

Town offices, including Social Services will be closed Friday, April 18th for Good Friday, Monday, May 26th for Memorial Day and Thursday, June 19th for the Juneteenth Independence Day.

Planting Seeds of Resilience:

The Prevention Partnership was asked to submit artwork for the Mandell JCC annual art show - Under One Roof. The theme this year is Resilience. West Hartford was recently designated a Recovery Friendly Community and this vibrant artwork was created through a collaboration between the West Hartford Prevention Partnership and Rise UP 4 Arts artist Julie Bergeron. The canvas was directly adapted from the Able Table, a centerpiece of inclusion and community resilience. Inspired by the Able Table concept, the mural symbolizes West Hartford's recent designation as a Recovery Friendly Community, ensuring there is a "seat at the table for everyone". The mural's design was conceptualized by youth who participated in the West Hartford Youth Leadership Academy emphasizing how the contributions of young leaders can create a lasting impact.

The Able Table is a permanent fixture prominently featured in Blue Back Square and is both wheelchair and stroller accessible. This artwork serves as a hopeful reminder of the power of prevention and the importance of small actions in shaping a stronger, more inclusive community.

The opening event night at the JCC for this artwork is May 6th and runs through June 27th. The Able Table is located in Blue Back Square near the stage.

988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline:

24/7 free, confidential mental health hotline that connects individuals in need of support with counselors across the United States and its territories. People do not have to be suicidal to call. Reasons to call include: substance use disorder, economic worries, relationships, culture and identity, illness, intimate partner violence, depression, mental and physical illness, and loneliness.

- Call: 988
- Text: 988
- Veterans Crisis Line – Dial 988 then press 1 or text: 838255

Dial-A-Ride (DAR) Renewal:

DAR provides transportation assistance to West Hartford residents who are age 60 or older or to those over 18 and have a qualifying disability. Those under age 60 will need to complete a disability form that will need to be certified by their doctor. Dial-A-Ride does not service skilled nursing facilities, rehabilitation centers or assisted living facilities. The membership year is July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026. The annual administrative fee is \$65.00 per year prorated to \$50 if you join after March 1, 2025. The annual fee is NOT refundable in whole or in part.

West Hartford Senior Centers SENIOR DAY at The Elmwood Senior Center:

SENIOR DAY will be held on Wednesday, May 14th from 9:30am-12:30pm at the Elmwood Senior Center. There will be free continental breakfast, health screens and over 50 vendors and service providers. The event is free. No registration required. This event is co-sponsored by State Senator Derek Slap and the West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District.

Prescription Drug National Take Back Event:

On Saturday, April 26th, the West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District, in conjunction with the Police Department, will hold their annual National Prescription Drug Take Back Day from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the West Hartford Town Hall parking lot. National Take Back Day provides an opportunity for the public to dispose of expired, unwanted, or unused pharmaceutical controlled substances and other medication in an environmentally safe manner. These drugs can contaminate our waterways when flushed and are a potential risk to public health and safety when used illegally. The program is anonymous and free of charge.

ACCEPTED: Prescription and over-the-counter dosage medications, i.e., tablets, capsules, vaping products, and liquids.

NOT ACCEPTED: Intra-venous solutions, injectable medicines, Epi-pens and needles are not be accepted.

Please take pills out of prescription bottles for disposal. Sealed plastic bags are recommended.

Teen Wellness Fair & Student Art Show:

All are welcome to attend the Teen Wellness Fair on April 5th from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the West Hartford Town Hall. The fair, which is free and open to teens, as well as parents and caregivers, features a variety of activities including food, music, games, prizes, art, movement activities, and more, along with school and community resources.

2025 Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP):

The Senior Farmer's Market program is for income eligible West Hartford residents that are over age 65 and will be starting June 1st. Eligible residents will receive a card that can be used to purchase fresh fruit and vegetables at participating Farmer's Markets. Please call 860-561-7560 for more information.

Care Group for Parents and Caregivers of Adults with Mental Illness:

West Hartford Social Services is pleased to offer a three-session Care Group for Parents and Caregivers of Adults with Mental Illness. This program is free of charge for West Hartford residents, but space is limited and advance registration is required. Sessions will be held at the Noah Webster Library (Board Room) from 5-6 PM the following dates: Monday, April 7, Monday, April 14 & Monday, April 21. Topics will include: Community Resources and Psychoeducation, Effective Communication, Setting Boundaries & Self-Care. To register or learn more, please contact Gabriela Downey at Gabriela.Downey@westhartfordct.gov