

**Community Resources During Covid-19 Crisis**  
**Compiled by Karla Silvestre, Montgomery College Office of Community**  
**Engagement**  
**Updated April 8, 2020**

1. Unemployment: Students or their family members who has lost their jobs can file for un-employment at [www.dllr.state.md.us/employment/unemployment.shtml](http://www.dllr.state.md.us/employment/unemployment.shtml)
  - a. File online during non-peak hours (overnight, like 1 a.m.)
  - b. CARES Act includes independent workers like uber drivers, but the State of Maryland's system is not yet equipped to take their applications. Will receive it retroactively. Sign up to get an email notice once the system is set up for them.
  - c. Weekly check is based on how much you earned. In addition, the CARES Act bumped the weekly check by \$600.
  - d. Independent contractors should sign up to be contacted by the Unemployment Office once the system is ready to take their claims. <https://www.dllr.state.md.us/employment/unemployment.shtml>

“**E-mail Updates** To receive an e-mail letting you know when you can file for PUA benefits, please enter your e-mail address below.”  
E-mail Address\_\_\_\_\_
2. Stimulus checks: \$1200/person stimulus checks
  - a. When will they arrive?
    1. direct deposited starting April 13.
    2. Those without direct deposit will get it at some time over the next few months.
  - b. How much money should I expect to get? If you earn less than \$75,000, or you and your spouse collectively make less than \$150,000, you'll get \$1,200 for each of you plus \$500 for each child under 17. You must have a Social Security number to be eligible for a payment, which will not be taxed. If you did not file taxes, do so now to get the benefit.
  - c. Senior citizens on social security will receive a stimulus check even if they did not file taxes.
3. Paying rent: The Governor has ordered that no evictions can take place during the crisis. Work out a payment plan with your landlord if you are having trouble making rent.
4. Food:
  - a. Sign up for SNAP (food stamps) by going to the website. Citizen children of undocumented are eligible.  
<https://mydhrbenefits.dhr.state.md.us/dashboardClient/#/home>
  - b. Free meals for MCPS students and weekend backpacks- [mcpsmd.org](http://mcpsmd.org) to see list of schools to pick up food or call 301-309-6277. This is permitted under the Governor's order.

- c. Food for families- Manna Food. No referral needed at this time. Call the day before you plan to go get food 301-424-1130  
<https://www.mannafood.org/how-to-receive-food-from-manna/>
5. Other County programs
  - a. Need public assistance from Montgomery County for help with rental assistance, utilities, SNAP program (food stamps), housing stabilization. Call 240-777-1003 or call the county's information line 311.
6. Internet
  - a. No internet at home?- Comcast Internet Essentials and other companies like Charter Spectrum, Altice are offering free internet for two months at which point you can cancel or join their plan.
7. What to do if you are sick?
  - a. Call your doctor
  - b. If you don't have a doctor, see list of safety net clinics which also serve undocumented.  
<https://www.primarycarecoalition.org/montgomerycaresorg.html>
8. Public charge implications
  - Unemployment Insurance is NOT considered in public charge determinations
  - Food Assistance: Receipt of disaster assistance programs, P-EBT and school meals are NOT included in the public charge determination.
  - Stimulus check: The stimulus payment is a tax credit, and the public charge regulation is clear that tax credits are NOT taken into account for the purposes of a public charge determination.
  - Covid testing: USCIS has announced that testing, prevention, or treatment for COVID-19 will NOT be used against immigrants in a public charge test. This means that immigrant families should seek the care they need during this difficult time.
  - SNAP Benefits for citizen children of undocumented. The benefits are issued because of the US citizen, not because of the parents. Therefore, when an analysis for Public Charge takes place, for example when an immigration officer asks the parent if they have received benefits, the answer they should give is "no", because the benefits were issued because of the child and not because of them. They are not lying. Those benefits are not be counted for Public Charge.

9. Services for undocumented residents in the State of Maryland. Note: Montgomery County may have more services not covered here like safety net clinics and Manna Food.

**MEMORANDUM (source Governor's Office via Montgomery County Office of Health and Human Services, Luis Martinez and Ken Hartman, Regional Director)**

**Health & Nutrition Services**

· Hospital Emergency Departments & Emergency Medical Services – Undocumented people can access emergency medical services and receive care for acute medical needs at hospital emergency departments. This also includes labor and delivery services and dialysis. Since 1986, the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) requires anyone coming to an emergency department to be stabilized and treated, regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay.

· Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) – Any Maryland resident, including undocumented individuals, who meets the WIC income requirements and is pregnant, a new or breastfeeding mother, an infant, or a child under the age of five is eligible to receive food assistance through WIC.

o Visit <https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/wic/Pages/wic-eligible.aspx> for more detail.

· Meals for Students – All Maryland children under the age of 18 and people with disabilities over the age of 18 who participate in school programs, including undocumented people, are eligible for three free meals a day. o Visit [https://mars.msde.maryland.gov/mars\\_sitesearch/](https://mars.msde.maryland.gov/mars_sitesearch/) for information on distribution locations.

**Employment & Economic Assistance**

· Emergency Assistance for Families with Children (EAFIC) – The EAFIC provides emergency cash assistance to families who need emergency help paying rent or utilities or for other emergencies. This program does not have exclusions based on immigration status. o Visit <http://dhs.maryland.gov/weathering-tough-times/emergency-assistance/> for more information.

· Energy Assistance (MEAP and EUSP) - Undocumented applicants are eligible for energy assistance as long as there is at least one household member that is a U.S. citizen or a qualified alien (including children). o Visit <http://dhs.maryland.gov/office-of-home-energy-programs/> for more information.

· Continuum of Care Networks for People Experiencing Homelessness – Undocumented individuals experiencing homelessness may receive services through any of the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's Continuums of Care (CoC). CoCs are locally-based networks of government agencies and nonprofits that can provide critical individuals experiencing homelessness, such as temporary shelter. o Visit <https://dhcd.maryland.gov/HomelessServices/Pages/default.aspx> for more information.

