

Resources During the COVID-19 Outbreak

REMEMBER—CLASI IS HERE TO HELP YOU!

CLASI's advocacy team is here to help with your civil legal issues. **During the COVID 19 outbreak, we remain committed to serving our clients.** CLASI staff are working remotely while our offices are temporarily closed, to ensure that our organization remains fully operational. All intakes and referrals will be done via phone by CLASI staff. **We encourage you to continue to contact us for assistance with your civil legal issues.** If you call, please leave a message with a current phone number or email, and an advocate will call or email you back.

FOOD & PANTRY

School Meals

In the wake of the State of Emergency, the Governor ordered all Delaware public schools to close until May 15, 2020. All children under the age of 18 are eligible to receive **school breakfast and lunch**. Visit www.doe.k12.de.us/covid19 for a full list of "grab and go" school meal sites.

Additionally, DART is offering public school students free bus rides to "grab and go" school meal sites on regularly scheduled bus routes between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. until school is back in session. Of course, please consider your health and personal circumstances before using public transportation.

The **Food Bank of Delaware** directly distributes emergency food to the public through the Healthy Pantry Center. Appointments are required. For **Newark** appointments call (302) 292-1305 ext. 227 or for **Milford** appointments call (302) 424-3301 ext. 106. Participants must bring ID and proof of Delaware Residency.

Food Bank Locations and Hours:

Newark Pantry: 222 Lake Drive, Newark, DE 19702. Entrance is at the back of the building near the loading ramp. Enter first glass door.

- Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (last participant at 3:00 p.m.)
- Third Thursday: 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (last participant at 6:30 p.m.)
- Second Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to noon (last participant at 11:30 a.m.)

Milford Pantry: 1040 Matlind Way, Milford, DE 19963. Enter building through entrance under green awning. Return visits are permitted after 7 days have passed.

- Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (last participant at 3:30 p.m.)
- 4th Tuesdays: 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (last participant at 6:30 p.m.)
- 2nd Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (last participant at 11:30 a.m.)

Other Food Resources

The **City of Wilmington** has "Grab and Go" meal sites throughout the City, in addition to regular after-school food sites available around Wilmington. For a complete list of locations and times, visit: <https://www.wilmingtonde.gov/Home/Components/News/News/4787/225>.

The food pantry at **St. Stephen's Church**, located at 1301 North Broom Street in Wilmington, provides food and necessities from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, and from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday. Participants must bring ID, and may visit the pantry once per week.

West End Neighborhood House, located at 710 North Lincoln Street in Wilmington, operates a food closet. They are also able to make curbside home deliveries for those who are home-bound. Contact West End at 302-658-4171 x 118.

The **Salvation Army** operates a food pantry in each county. Participants must bring ID.

Wilmington: 400 North Orange Street (5th Street Entrance), Monday—Friday, 9:00a.m.—12:00 noon

Dover: 611 Forest Drive, Every Friday 9:00a.m.—11:00a.m.

Seaford: 22318 Sussex Highway, Monday—Friday, 9:00a.m.—1:00 p.m.

La Esperanza, located at 216 North Race Street in Georgetown, accepts requests for food on Thursdays starting at 9:00 a.m. by phone, at 302-854-9262. Staff will call when the food is ready for pick-up.

Community Legal Aid Society Inc.



COURTS

Starting Tuesday, March 17, 2020, the **Justice of the Peace Courts** stopped processing evictions, or scheduling eviction trials, until May 15, 2020. There are limited exceptions to this order, such as cases where there is an emergency requiring the case to move forward, and someone convinces the court that serious harm will occur if the case is delayed. The Governor's Emergency Declarations also prevent landlords from:

- Evicting tenants during the pandemic; and
- Charging tenants late fees or interest during the pandemic; and
- Charging holdover rent if a tenant cannot vacate the rental property at the end of the lease due to COVID-19.

You may still get notices from your landlord, for example if you did not pay rent. If you get a notice from your landlord, please contact CLASI. We are still here to help, and offer advice.

Delaware Family Courts closed on March 23, 2020, except for emergencies. The Family Court will accept emergency civil filings, which includes Protection from Abuse Petitions, via email at FC_COVID19@delaware.gov. If you need help completing or filing a Protection From Abuse petition, contact the Domestic Violence Advocacy Program (DVAP) at (302) 255-2609. If you need help or information related to Domestic Violence, please call the confidential 24 Hour Hotline in your area, all of which remain open:

New Castle County (Bilingual): (302) 762-6110

Northern Kent County: (302) 678-3886

Kent/Sussex Counties: (302) 422-8058

Kent/Sussex (Bilingual): (302) 745-9874

UTILITIES

Electric and Gas:

Delmarva Power Company has suspended all disconnections of service, and is waiving late fees. While they cannot disconnect services during the cold weather months, typically determined to end by April 15th, Delmarva has extended that period to June 1, 2020, due to COVID-19. Delmarva is asking that customers with temporary or extended financial hardship contact them at (800) 375-7117 to discuss possible payment arrangements, and energy assistance options. <https://www.delmarva.com/safetyCommunity/Safety/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

Wi-Fi/Internet Services:

If you are eligible for public assistance programs such as:

- the National School Lunch Program
- Housing Assistance
- Medicaid, SNAP
- SSI and other related programs

You could be eligible for Comcast's free 60 day Wi-Fi/internet plan. Comcast has announced a plan to make home internet more accessible to low-income communities in the wake of COVID-19. Individuals must complete an application by April 30, 2020, and if approved, may receive 60 days of free internet service, with plans starting at \$9.95 per month thereafter. Additional details and the application are available at: <https://www.internetessentials.com/>

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

Delaware 2-1-1 provides one central resource for access to the health and human service organizations that offer the support to make a difference. This free service is confidential and available when you need it. During the pandemic, Delaware 2-1-1 is available 7 days a week. You can **dial 2-1-1 (or 1-800-560-3372)** for assistance Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m., or on Saturday through Sunday from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. You can also visit their website at www.delaware211.org. Delaware 2-1-1 can help you with the following resources:

- Employment and Job Training Resources
- Financial Assistance
- Social Services
- Healthcare, including Mental Health Counseling and Dental Services
- Emergency Housing & Affordable Housing
- Basic Necessities, such as Food and Clothing
- Transportation

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STATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The **Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA)** has up-to-date information and resources related to COVID-19 on their website, at: <https://dema.delaware.gov/recoveryAssistance/index.shtml>

The **Delaware Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance (DMMA)** is coordinating with federal and local partners to respond to COVID-19 as information becomes available. The latest Delaware-specific information can be found at <https://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/epi/2019novelcoronavirus.html>.

If you have questions about coronavirus in Delaware, contact the **Division of Public Health (DPH)** Call Center at 1-866-408-1899 or DPHcall@delaware.gov. The DPH Call Center is available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Medicaid:

Effective March 19, 2020, the **Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS)** has announced that all Medicaid renewals/recertification will be suspended and automatically renewed to avoid lapses in coverage.

Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Premiums:

Effective March 19, 2020, **DHSS** announced that all premiums for the CHIP program are waived to expand access to coverage for children in families who are otherwise eligible for the CHIP program.

Public Benefits:

If you lost your job or hours due to COVID-19, you can apply for Medicaid/Medical Assistance, SNAP (Food Stamps), TANF (cash assistance), or LIHEAP heating assistance. If you already receive any/all of these benefits, you may be able to get an increase in benefits due to your reduced income. To apply, go to: <https://assist.dhss.delaware.gov/> or call the **Division of Social Services (DSS)** at 1-866-843-7212.

Public Charge:

During the COVID-19 outbreak, non-Citizens who need testing and treatment related to the COVID-19 outbreak will not be considered a public charge by Immigration, even if the testing/treatment is paid for by Medicaid. Note that non-Citizens receiving assistance from food pantries or other community-based programs will not be considered a public charge by immigration. If you have questions related to the public charge rule please contact CLASI for additional information.

Unemployment:

If you or someone in your household is not working due to:

- Shut downs because of the State of Emergency declaration; or
- Being ordered by a doctor to self quarantine; or
- Being forced to quit or take unpaid leave from your job to care for children due to the Governor's emergency closure of schools;

...then you could be eligible for unemployment benefits. Delawareans who would like to file for unemployment benefits online can visit <https://ui.delawareworks.com>. If you have questions, you can email Department of Labor at uiclaims@delaware.gov or call them at (302) 761-8446. Note that the following changes to the unemployment benefit rules may help many workers qualify for unemployment benefits, or get greater benefits :

- Workers who earn tips can include tips in their calculation of wages when applying for unemployment benefits; and
- Workers may work part-time without losing their eligibility for unemployment benefits.

Website: www.declasi.org

Twitter: [@DECLASI](https://twitter.com/DECLASI)

Facebook: [@CommunityLegalAidSociety](https://www.facebook.com/CommunityLegalAidSociety)

New Castle County: (302) 575-0660

Kent County: (302) 674-8500

Sussex County: (302) 856-0038

TTY: (302) 575-0696

