



CCEH COVID-19 Morning Newsletter

Welcome to the CCEH COVID-19 Response Newsletter. This morning we are sharing some information on food security resources and new developments relating to eviction and foreclosure in CT.

For additional resources relating to the COVID-19 response, visit cceh.org/covid19.

You can also donate to CCEH's COVID-19 Emergency Fund at cceh.org/about/donate-now/covid19.

Food Security Resources

Over the past few days we have heard from many providers across the state who are concerned about the food insecurity facing their clients and their inability to access food resources during COVID-19.

Below are a few resources that may be helpful for you and your clients:

SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program):

If you have clients who are dealing with food insecure and have yet to enroll in SNAP, they can call the EHC! SNAP Call Center, information below:

EHC! SNAP Call Center Hours (English & Spanish – 866.974.7627):

SUN 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

MON 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM

TUES – THURS 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM

FRI 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM

SAT 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

By appointment only when possible outside of the standard program hours of operation

Expensify.org will match SNAP groceries up to \$50 for Families on SNAP

For families that are already enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), [Expensify.org](https://expensify.org) is going to temporarily redirect all of its charitable funds to [Expensify.org/hunger](https://expensify.org/hunger). With its ability to reimburse volunteers directly in real-time, Expensify.org is uniquely positioned to help families in need immediately. Until today, this fund was focused on paying off kids' "lunch debts", but with schools closed around the nation, that isn't the top priority. Instead, Expensify.org has set up a new matching program for SNAP grocery purchases up to \$50 per family.

Details for signing up for the Expensify program for families:

1. Purchase food as normal with your SNAP card
2. **Download** Expensify on iOS or Android, for free
3. Join the [Expensify.org/hunger](https://expensify.org/hunger) policy
4. **SmartScan** the receipt, which will tell us how much you paid and show that it was paid for with an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card
5. Submit it to volunteer@expensify.org
6. Set up your **bank account** to receive the funds

So long as they have funds available, Expensify will reimburse up to \$50 per family (one time), the very next day.

End Hunger CT:

Shelter, permanent supportive housing, and rapid re-housing providers having issues accessing food for your clients can email Robin Lamott Sparks, Executive Director at End Hunger CT at rlamottsparks@endhungerct.org for assistance advocating for necessary resources.

Please share these resources with your networks and feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns to Sarah Fox at cceh.org.

Eviction and Foreclosure Policy Updates

This update was sent from CT Fair Housing Center on March 18.

What happened on March 17, 2019:

- Staff signed onto a letter with several Connecticut advocacy organizations that requested that the state leadership provide better protections for all individuals with disabilities, who are living in poverty, who are living in unstable housing, and individuals facing economic hardship as a result of the Covid-19 public health care crisis. You can read the letter [here](#).
- The state courts postponed foreclosure sales that were scheduled for Saturday, March 21 and Saturday March 28, 2020. Sales remain scheduled for April 4. You can read the notice [here](#).
- The state courts stayed all "execution" orders so that tenants and former homeowners will not be removed from their homes through March 27. You can read the court order [here](#).
- The state courts will not issue new executions until March 30, 2020.
- State courts remain closed to foreclosure and eviction mediations, hearings, and advice table sessions. For more information about what the courts are doing, click [here](#).
- Staff informed housing advocates community of these requirements along with listserv of 200+ foreclosure defense attorneys.
- Staff requested that the Connecticut Department of Banking reinstate many of the procedures and policies it put in place during the 2008 financial crisis to make it easier for homeowners to get a forbearance agreement and to stop the accrual of late fees and costs.
- Staff continued discussions with executive department officials, legislators, court staff, and press regarding developments and need for continued efforts to address the ongoing crisis.

What has NOT happened

- No moratorium on the filing of new eviction and foreclosure actions.
- No moratorium on the filing of new requests for execution or default motions against people facing eviction or foreclosure.
- No moratorium on the scheduling of law days in foreclosure actions.
- No guidance from the state or federal government on what homeless shelters should do to ensure the health of safety of staff and residents while providing shelter to people who are homeless.
- Housing authorities are have not said how they will handle extensions of time on housing choice vouchers, the need for inspections of new units or staying notices of voucher terminations.
- People continue to live in substandard conditions and cannot get assistance in moving out even though the conditions are harming them and their families.

What we are learning from our clients

- State-regulated (including state-chartered) mortgage companies needlessly apply for executions of ejectment in disregard of actions taken by the courts.
- Landlords continue to issue Notices to Quit and start eviction actions.
- People continue to lose jobs and income as bars, restaurants, hairdressers, etc. close.

Additional Resources from DHMAS and SAMHSA

DHMAS Warm Line Information:

<https://portal.ct.gov/DHMAS/Programs-and-Services/Advocacy/Warm-Lines>

A.U./JoinRiseBe Statewide Young Adult Warmline:

<https://www.joinrisebe.org/about-the-warmline>

SAMHSA Helpline and Social Distancing Tips:

Call **SAMHSA's free 24-hour Disaster Distress Helpline** at **1-800-985-5990**, if you feel lonely or need support.

A new SAMHSA document, **[Tips For Social Distancing, Quarantine, And Isolation During An Infectious Disease Outbreak](#)**



Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness | 257 Lawrence Street, Hartford, CT 06106

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