



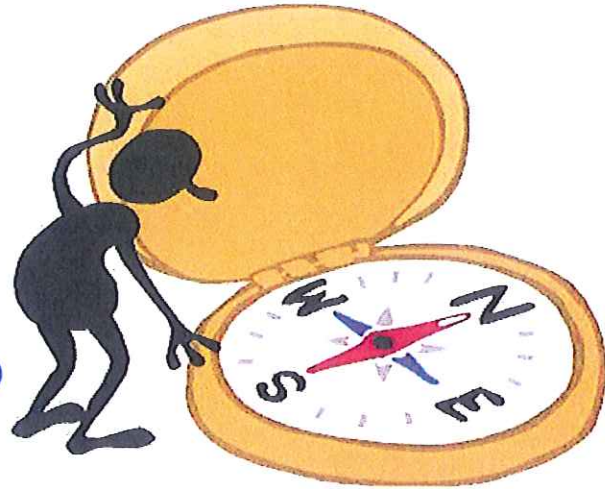
LIVINGSTON COUNTY RESOURCE GUIDE



Brought to you by the
**Livingston County Basic Needs
 Workgroup**
of the
 Livingston County Human Services
 Collaborative Body
To order additional copies, call:
 Livingston County United Way
 810-494-3000
 or go to
www.lcunitedway.org or
www.co.livingston.mi.us/hscb

Not Sure Which Way To Turn?

Let the Resource Navigators guide you along the way..



Help Applying for Assistance

Food, Child Care, Cash, and Medical

Food Pantries

Pantries in Livingston County

A List of Organizations to Help See You Through

Resource Navigators
866-453-2637 ext. 331
Located at Gleaners Food Pantry in Howell



Find us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/resourcenavigator





MICHIGAN WORKS!

Food Programs and Pantries

Livingston County

Agency	Address	Phone	Serving Days/ Hours	Program and Information
Family Impact Center	735 N. Grand Fowlerville	517- 223-4428	Tue., Thur. & Fri. 10 am—3 pm, Thur. evening 6-8pm	<u>Client choice pantry:</u> Serves Livingston County residents need photo ID, proof of income, visit by appointment up to 6 times per year.
Hidden Springs Church	5860 N. Latson Rd., Howell	517-546-3577	Mon - Thur. from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm	<u>Client Choice Pantry:</u> Serves all of Livingston County, call to make appointment.
Liv. Co. Department of Human Services	2300 E. Grand River Ste. 1, Howell	517-548-0200	Weekdays or on-line application	<u>Food Assistance Program (Bridge Card):</u> www.michigan.gov/mibridges
Liv. Co. Department of Public Health (WIC)	2300 E. Grand River Ste. 102, Howell	517-546-5459	Walk-in appointments on Wed. 8:30 am - 4:30 pm; 2nd & 4th Wed. till 7 pm	<u>Women, Infants & Children (WIC):</u> Open to pregnant, breast feeding & non-lactating postpartum women & infants & children under age 5
OLHSA	2300 E. Grand River Ste.107, Howell	517-546-8500	Mon. - Fri. Emergency 9 am -4:30 pm	<u>Government Commodities Food Programs:</u> CSFP (seniors) and TEFAP (families) Call for more information.
Pregnancy Helpline	7743 W. Grand River Brighton	810-494-5433	Mon:10-5, Wed: 10-4, Tue. & Thur.: 10-7, 2nd Sat. of the month:10-1	<u>Baby Food and Formula:</u> Serves all of Livingston County, call for more information.
Shared Harvest / Gleaners	5924 Sterling Dr. Howell	517-548-3710	Mon. - Fri.: 9:30 am - 2:30 pm, Tue., Wed., & Thur.: 5-7 pm Sat: 9am - 12 pm	<u>Client choice pantry:</u> Serves all of Livingston County, visit by appointment up to 6 times per year. Seniors up to 12 visit per year.
SonRise an Assembly of God Church	1130 W. Highland Rd. Howell	517-546-2669	By appointment only Mon. from 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Tue. & Fri. from 10:30 am - 12 pm	<u>Client choice pantry:</u> Serves all of Livingston County. By 6 visits per year. Singles 30 pounds per visit, Families 20 pounds per person per visit / 80 pound max. Please call for appointment.
St. George Lutheran Church	803 W. Main St, Brighton	810-360-0271 810-333-1349	Saturdays from 9 am to noon; free hot breakfast served 8 am—11 am	<u>Client choice pantry:</u> Serving Brighton and Whitmore Lake areas. Need family size and ID's. Clothing also available.
St. Joseph Pantry	440 E. Washington Howell	989-362-2563	Saturdays from 9 am to noon	<u>Client choice pantry:</u> Serves Howell. Asks for family size and photo ID and zip code. Provides one week's worth of food per visit.
St. Mary's Catholic Church	10601 Dexter Pinckney Pinckney	734-878-3161	By appointment Mon. - Fri. Sat. & Sun. emergencies only	<u>Box program:</u> After first time, family needs to be approved by Love INC. Amount of food is provided based on need & given out about 6 times per year.
The Salvation Army	503 Lake St. Howell	517- 546-4750	Mon - Fri from 9 am to 5 pm, closed each day noon -1 pm	<u>Box program:</u> Serves all of Livingston County. Need ID for all in the household, 200% of poverty, by appointment, 1 time every 30 days.



MICHIGAN WORKS!
Love in the Name of Christ



Food Programs and Pantries — cont'd

Dora's cupboard	5050 M-36 Stockbridge	517-851-7425	Tuesdays 2 pm - 4 pm	
St. Paul Lutheran Church in Hamburg	7701 E. M-36 Hamburg	517-552-3620	Wednesdays 2 pm - 6 pm	Call for appointment through LOVE INC.

Meal Programs

Livingston County

Agency	Address	Phone	Serving Days/ Hours	Program and Information
Fishes & Loaves	Rotating between churches	810-227-9411 ext.4013	Sundays 5:30 - 6:15 pm	Community Dinner Kitchen: Open to all of Livingston County.
God's Kitchen St. Joseph Catholic Church	440 E. Washington Howell	517-546-0090 ext. 109	Wednesdays at 6 pm	Community Dinner Kitchen: Serves all of Livingston County, asks for first name, age and zip code.
Livingston County Senior Nutrition Program	9525 E. Highland Rd. Howell	810-632-2155/ 888-886-8971	Weekdays	Homebound Seniors: Call for more information Senior Center weekday meals: Call for more information
Living Stone Church	7555 Brighton Rd Brighton	810-227-4073	Wednesdays 6 - 7 pm	Dinner: Free meal for families and individuals who need a hot meal . Open to everyone in need. Program runs through June.
Plain Field United Methodist Church	17845 M-36 Gregory	517-851-7651	Second Saturday of the month	Chicken suppers : Free will offering
St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church	2201 Old US 23 Highway, Brighton	810-229-8624	Mondays at 6 pm	Please call for more information.
St. Agnes Catholic Church	855 E. Grand River Fowlerville	517-223-8684	Thursdays at 6 pm	Dinner: for residents in the community who may be in need of a hot meal . Program runs Sept. - May

Find Help. Give Help.

respite care • youth leadership • shelters • GED preparation • housing •
adult day care • rent assistance • food banks • veterans' services • Meals on
Wheels • alcohol assistance • donation • youth leadership • rent assistance •
rehabilitation • literacy resources • job training • fuel assistance • donation
opportunities • clothing • education • respite care • youth leadership •
shelters • GED preparation • housing • adult day care • rent assistance •
food banks • veterans' services • Meals on Wheels • alcohol assistance • donation
youth leadership • rent assistance • rehabilitation • literacy resources • job training •
fuel assistance • donation opportunities • clothing • education • respite care •
youth leadership • shelters • GED preparation • housing • adult day care •
rent assistance • food banks • veterans' services • Meals on Wheels • alcohol
rehabilitation • literacy resources • job training • fuel assistance • donation
opportunities • clothing • education • respite care • youth leadership •
shelters • GED preparation • housing • adult day care • rent assistance •

Help Starts Here.

**Easy, Confidential,
and Free.**

**Call 2-1-1—
your first call
for help**

Central Michigan 



Search the database online:

www.CentralMichigan211.org

Outside our area? Call 866-561-2500.



Volunteer *Livingston*

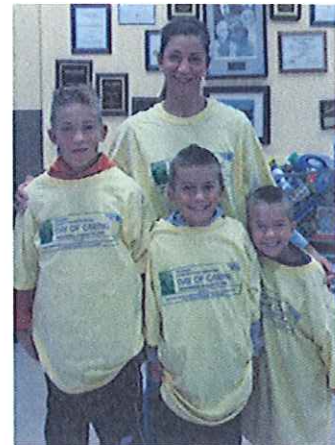


Start with an hour, start with a day, start now...

**Share your time, your talents.
Volunteer today!**

For all your local
volunteer connection needs visit

www.volunteerlivingston.com



Livingston County
United Way



INTRODUCTION

This Livingston County resource guide is designed to help you quickly connect to community resources which will help you and your family survive unemployment. Local job loss is a tragic side effect to the State of Michigan's continuing weak economy, and most Livingston County residents have never needed help before. The Livingston County Basic Needs Workgroup, a committee of the Livingston County Human Services Collaborative Body, offers important information about our community's resources within this guide. Additional information and referrals can be accessed by dialing 2-1-1, the Livingston County United Way supported free 24/7 helpline for human services.

First Things First – Take Care of Yourself!

This can be a very stressful time for anyone, but especially for those who have never had to reach out for help before. Many of our neighbors and friends are experiencing new challenges and frustrations. Feelings of stress, anxiety, and depression are to be expected. Make an effort to share your feelings; stay connected with other people; realize that you are not alone; and look for the resources to help you through this time. Hopefully, it will be very short-lived.

And, if you need support beyond your family, friends, and social networks, check out community services, such as support groups and counseling services, to help you deal with these unexpected changes. Community Mental Health operates a crisis hotline. For other resources, call 2-1-1. Take care of yourself!

Livingston County Community Mental Health

Phone: 517-546-4126















24 Hour Crisis Line: 800-615-1245

2280 E. Grand River, Howell, MI 48843

www.cmhliv.org

Resource Guide

Surviving Tough Economic Times in Livingston County

-   **FOOD ASSISTANCE**
-   **FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT**
-   **UTILITY ASSISTANCE**
-   **UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE**
-   **HOUSING ASSISTANCE**
-   **MEDICAL ASSISTANCE**
-   **TRANSPORTATION**

FOOD ASSISTANCE

What can you do to reduce or manage the costs?

Some suggestions:

- Planning a weekly meal menu as a family for breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks can help manage costs by preventing high-priced dining out bills.
- Convenience foods (like canned pasta) in the long-run tend to cost more, come in small portions, and tend to be eaten quickly. Making dishes yourself with multiple ingredients discourages casual eating and produces multiple servings.
- Sale papers are a great resource for buying high-cost items like meat, stock-up if you can when it is on sale.
- Shopping at low-cost grocery stores may only save you a few cents per item, but will save you multiple dollars per trip and over time.
- When extra dollars are available, think ahead. Buy a few extra staples like canned veggies, pasta, and canned meat that will keep in the pantry.

Resources in Livingston County

Food pantries, community dinners and government programs can help provide you and your family with needed food. The most comprehensive support can be accessed by applying for food assistance through the Michigan State Department of Human Services (DHS). You can apply for food assistance in person, at your local DHS office, or online if you have computer access (lots of libraries offer free computer access). Many of the services available through DHS require processing time before assistance can begin. Local emergency food programs and community pantries can help bridge this gap. See the list of resources included with this Tool Kit.

Livingston County DHS

2300 E Grand River Ave, Howell, MI 48843

Phone: 517-548-0200

www.michigan.gov/mibridges

Contact a *Livingston County Resource Navigator* (located at Gleaners Community Food Bank) for information and help in applying for food assistance, call 866-453-2637 x331.

HELPFUL HINTS

- Have documents and identification cards needed to verify identity, age, income, address, employment status, immigration status, etc., for all family members.
- Protect your DHS Benefit information like you would other personal information; don't share - prevent identity theft.
- Find out if you qualify for assistance or check the status of your food assistance application on-line at www.michigan.gov/mibridges, or by calling 888-642-7434.
- Visit <http://snap.nal.usda.gov>, and click on "Click n' Go Education Materials" for great information, ideas, and fact sheets on nutrition and healthy eating.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Food and Nutrition Directors

Brighton, Richard Browder 810-299-4171
Fowlerville, Amy Verhelle-Smith 517-223-6115
Hartland, Terri Sincock 810-626-2867

Howell, Pat Napolitano 517-548-6265
Pinckney, Sue Milliken 810-225-5628

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Livingston County Schools offer healthy meals every school day. Students may buy lunch; contact your local district for meal pricing. Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. We sell reduced price lunches for \$.40 and breakfasts for \$.30. If a doctor has determined that your child has a disability, and the disability would prevent the child from eating the regular school meal, the school will make *any substitution prescribed by a licensed physician* at no extra charge. The physician's statement, including prescribed diet and/or substitution, must be submitted to the food service department at your school. For further information, please contact your districts nutrition director, contact numbers are listed above.

1. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD?

No. Complete the application to apply for free and reduced price school meals. Use one Free and Reduced Price School Meals Family Application for all students in your household. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to: Your child's school office or contact the district's director at the number listed above,

2. WHO CAN GET FREE MEALS?

Children in households getting Food Assistance Program (FAP), Family Independence Program (FIP), or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), can get free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free meals if your household income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Guidelines.

3. CAN FOSTER CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS?

Yes, foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court, are eligible for free meals. Any foster child in the household is eligible for free meals regardless of income. They may also be included as household members on family applications if other family members wish to apply for free or reduced price meals.

4. CAN HOMELESS, RUNAWAY, AND MIGRANT CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS?

Yes, children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant qualify for free meals. If you haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call your districts nutrition director, homeless liaison or migrant coordinator to see if your child(ren) qualify.

5. WHO CAN GET REDUCED PRICE MEALS?

Your children can get low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced price limits on the Federal Income Guidelines, included in this application packet.

6. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS?

Please read the letter you got carefully and follow any instructions if provided. Call the school at the number listed above if you have questions.

7. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT ANOTHER ONE?

Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year. You *must* send in a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year.

8. I GET WOMEN, INFANTS, & CHILDREN (WIC). CAN MY CHILD(REN) GET FREE MEALS?

Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. An application must be filled out by WIC households.

9. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE VERIFIED?

Yes, we may ask you to send written proof of any information provided on the application.

10. IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER?

Yes. You may apply at any time during the school year if your house-hold size goes up, income goes down, or if you start getting FAP, FIP, FDP, or other benefits. If you lose your job, your children may be able to get free or reduced price meals.

11. WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL'S DECISION ABOUT MY APPLICATION?

You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling your district's nutrition director for further instructions/information.

12. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN?

Yes. You or your child(ren) do not have to be a U.S. citizen to qualify for free or reduced price meals.

13. WHO SHOULD I INCLUDE AS MEMBERS OF MY HOUSEHOLD?

You must include all people living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends) who share income and expenses. You must include yourself and all children living with you. If you live with other people who are economically independent (for example, people who you do not support, who do not share income with you or your children, and who pay a pro-rated share of the expenses), do not include them.

14. WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME?

List the amount that you normally get. For example, if you normally get \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only got \$900, put down that you get \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but not if you get it only sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.

15. WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE INCLUDE OUR HOUSING ALLOWANCE AS INCOME?

If you get an off-base housing allowance, it must be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income.

16. WHAT IF MY CHILD DOES NOT HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE?

Your children may qualify for low cost or free health insurance through MICHild and Healthy Kids Program. To apply online, go to www.michigan.gov/michild or call 1-888-988-6300 for help or to request a paper application.

17. MY SPOUSE IS DEPLOYED TO A COMBAT ZONE. IS HIS/HER COMBAT PAY COUNTED AS INCOME?

No, if the combat pay is received in addition to his/her basic pay because of his/her deployment and it wasn't received before he/she was deployed, combat pay is not counted as income. Contact your school for more information.

18. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR?

To find out how to apply for Food Assistance Program (FAP) or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 1-800-481-4989.

If you have other questions or need help, please call your district's nutrition director at the number above.

Sincerely,

Livingston County Nutrition Directors

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

Your children may qualify for free and reduced price school meals if your household income falls within the limits on this chart.

Total Family Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	\$20,665	\$1,723	\$862	\$795	\$398
2	\$27,991	\$2,333	\$1,167	\$1,077	\$539
3	\$35,317	\$2,944	\$1,472	\$1,359	\$680
4	\$42,643	\$3,554	\$1,777	\$1,641	\$821
5	\$49,969	\$4,165	\$2,083	\$1,922	\$961
6	\$57,295	\$4,775	\$2,388	\$2,204	\$1,102
7	\$64,621	\$5,386	\$2,693	\$2,486	\$1,243
8	\$71,947	\$5,996	\$2,998	\$2,768	\$1,384
*Each additional household member add:	\$7,326	\$611	\$306	\$282	\$141

IF YOUR ENTIRE HOUSEHOLD GETS FAP, FIP, OR FDP, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

Part 1: Skip this part.

Part 2: List the name and case number for any household member (including adults) receiving FAP, FIP, or FDP.

Part 3: List child(ren)'s name, grade, and building.

Part 4: Skip this part.

Part 5: Sign and date the form. A Social Security Number is not necessary.

Part 6: Answer this question.

IF YOU ARE APPLYING FOR A HOMELESS, MIGRANT, OR RUNAWAY CHILD, check the appropriate category in part 1 and contact your Homeless Liaison or Migrant Coordinator. Fill out application by following instructions for ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS.

IF YOU ARE APPLYING FOR ONLY FOSTER CHILD(REN), FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

Part 1: Skip this part.

Part 2: Skip this part.

Part 3: List the foster child(ren)'s name, circle Yes for foster child, and list grade and building.

Part 4: Skip this part.

Part 5: Sign and date the form. A Social Security Number is not necessary.

Part 6: Answer this question.

FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS: (Includes households with WIC, homeless, migrant, runaway, and households with both foster and non-foster children.)

Part 1: Complete if applicable.

Part 2: Skip this part.

Part 3: Follow these instructions to report ALL household members:

Column 1 - Names: List the first and last name of each person living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends). You *must* include yourself and all children living with you. Be sure to include all children. Attach another sheet of paper, if needed.

Column 2 - Circle Yes if Foster Child: Circle Yes if applicable.

Column 3 - Grade: Fill in the grade for each child attending school.

Column 4 - Building Name: Fill in the building name for each child attending school.

Part 4: GROSS INCOME: Use this section to report all income in your household from the previous month:

Next to each person's first and last name, list each type of income received last month. *Next to the amount, circle how often the person got it (weekly, every 2 weeks, twice a month, or monthly).*

- o All persons must claim some income, or indicate that they receive no income. If a person, including any child listed in part 3, does not have any income, then \$0 *must* be circled in the column labeled "Circle if NO Income."
- o *Earnings from Work*: List the gross income each person earned from work. This is not the same as take-home pay. *Gross income is the amount earned before taxes and other deductions.* Net income should ONLY be reported for self-owned business, farm, or rental income.
- o *Welfare, Child Support, and Alimony*: List the amount each person received last month.
- o *Pensions, Retirement, and Social Security*: List the amount each person received last month.
- o *All Other Income*: All Other Income includes Worker's Compensation, unemployment, strike benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits, disability benefits, regular contributions from people who do not live in your household, personal income from foster children, and *any other income*.

Part 5: An adult household member *must* sign and date the form, list the last four (4) digits of their *Social Security Number*, or check the box "I do not have a Social Security Number."

Part 6: Answer this question.

FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS FAMILY APPLICATION

Part 1 - If the child you are applying for is homeless, migrant or a runaway, check the appropriate category and verify with the district/school Homeless Liaison or Migrant coordinator at _____
 Homeless _____ Migrant _____ Runaway _____
 Skip Part 2 and list the Child's Name, Grade, and Building in Part 3.

Part 2 - If any member of your household received Food Assistance Program (FAP), Family Independence Program (FIP), or FDPIR, provide the name and case number for the person who receives benefits.
 Name: _____
 Bridge Card Numbers and Medicaid Numbers are NOT ACCEPTABLE case numbers
 If a case number is provided only students need to be listed in Part 3.

Part 3 - Household Names - List below all people living in your household, students and non-students, foster children, related or unrelated. For example, grandparents, other relatives, and/or friends, including yourself and children who live with you, must be listed.

Names	Circle Yes if Foster Child	Grade (if applicable)	Building Name (if applicable)	Circle if NO Income	Earnings from Work (before any deductions and taxes)		Welfare, Child Support, Alimony		Pensions, Retirement, Social Security		All Other Income	
					weekly	every 2 weeks	weekly	every 2 weeks	weekly	every 2 weeks	weekly	every 2 weeks
Example: Jono Doo	Yes			\$0	\$600				\$250			
	Yes			\$0								
	Yes			\$0								
	Yes			\$0								
	Yes			\$0								
	Yes			\$0								
	Yes			\$0								
	Yes			\$0								

Part 5 - Signature and Last Four (4) Digits of Adult Social Security Number (Adult household member MUST sign and date.)
 If Part 4 is completed, the adult signing the form must also list the last four (4) digits of his or her Social Security Number or check the "I do not have a social security number box". See Privacy Act Statement on the back of this page.
 I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that the sponsor will get federal funds based on the information I give. I understand that sponsor officials may verify (check) the information. I understand that if I purposely give false information, my child may lose benefits and I may be prosecuted.

Sign Here: X _____ Date: _____
 Print Name: _____
 Last Four (4) Digits of Adult Social Security Number: XXX-XX-_____
 Address _____
 HomeCell Phone _____
 Work Phone _____
 City _____ Email Address _____
 Zip Code _____ County _____
 I do not have a Social Security Number

By providing your email address, you may be notified via email of your eligibility for free and reduced price school meals.

Part 6 - Child's Racial/Ethnic Identity (optional)

Check One or More Racial Identities:

- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- Asian
- White
- Other

Check One Ethnic Identity:

- Hispanic or Latino
- Neither Hispanic or Latino

Privacy Act Information: Social Security Number _____

The Richard B. Russell School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced price meals. You must include the last four (4) digits of the Social Security Number of the adult household member who signs the application. The Social Security Number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child, list a FAP or FIP case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child, or indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a Social Security Number. We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced price meals, and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs. We MAY share your information to determine programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.

Non-discrimination Statement: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly.

"In accordance with Federal Law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (Voice). Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

VERIFICATION - FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY

Date Selected for Verification: _____		Date Follow-up/Second Notice: _____		Date of Adverse Notice Sent: _____	
Confirming Officials Signature: _____		Follow-up Official's Signature: _____			
Response Due from Household: _____		Verification Official's Signature: _____			
FAP/FIP/FDPIR/Foster Eligibility: <input type="checkbox"/> Not confirmed		Income		Verification Result	
Confirmed: Department of Human Services Notice of Eligibility		<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly <input type="checkbox"/> Every 2 weeks <input type="checkbox"/> Twice a month <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly <input type="checkbox"/> Annual		<input type="checkbox"/> Free to Reduced <input type="checkbox"/> Free to Paid <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced to Free <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced to Paid <input type="checkbox"/> No Change	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Wage Stubs <input type="checkbox"/> Written Documents <input type="checkbox"/> Collateral Contact <input type="checkbox"/> Agency Records <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Income <input type="checkbox"/> Household Size <input type="checkbox"/> Refused to Cooperate <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL - FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY

Annual Income Conversion: Weekly x 52, Every 2 Weeks x 26, Twice a Month x 24, Monthly x 12	
Household Size: _____ Total Gross Income: \$ Weekly _____ Every 2 Weeks _____ Twice a Month _____ Monthly _____ Annual _____	Reason for Denial: <input type="checkbox"/> Income Too High <input type="checkbox"/> Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____
Number of Children Free _____ Number of Children Reduced _____ Number of Children Paid _____	Date: _____ Date Dropped/Withdrawn: _____
Determining Official's Signature: _____	

FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT

Questions to ask yourself when assessing your current financial situation:

Have I listed and totaled my monthly bills and expenses? Do I know how much I need?

What can I do to reduce my monthly payments and expenses?

- Contact mortgage lenders and other creditors to discuss payment reduction, refinancing, partial pays, and skip-pay options to reduce your monthly debt.
- Lower insurance premiums by increasing deductibles or reducing coverage. Discuss minimum requirements with any lien holders, such as in the case of a financed vehicle.
- Review discretionary household spending, such as entertainment, recreation, media, and gifts. Make a plan to reduce the unnecessary costs and stick to it.

Do I have other income sources, if needed, for the short term?

- Review available financial resources: income, savings, assets that can produce quick cash if needed, assistance from family or friends.
- Consider renting out property or taking in a roommate.
- Any opportunities to barter for services?

Can I cover my expenses? . . . and, if so, for how long?

Personal Financial Counseling and Management Services

DEBT COUNSELING

GreenPath Debt Solutions

Phone: 810-227-0200

211 N First St., Suite 300, Brighton, MI 48116

HUD Certified

Call to schedule an appointment

- Debt counseling
- Debt management plan development
- Self-help on-line info @ www.greenpath.com
- On-line financial calculators

Money Management International

Phone: 866-889-9347

HUD Certified

Free on-line or by phone assistance

- Budget, credit, and housing counseling
- Debt management services
- Bankruptcy counseling & education
- On-line financial education @ www.MoneyManagement.org

BUDGETING & MONEY MANAGEMENT CLASSES

OLHSA, A Community Action Agency

Phone: 517-546-8500

2300 E. Grand River, Howell, MI 48843

Provides comprehensive services to low-income and other vulnerable local residents.

The financial-related classes, however, are available to the general public. Call for schedule.

Classes include:

- Money management and developing a budget
- Credit and debt reduction
- Lending issues
- Saving and building assets

Love in the Name of Christ

Phone: 517-552-3620

820 E. Grand River, Howell, MI 48843

Financial classes are offered through a network of churches. Call for schedule and location.

Classes include:

- Balancing your checkbook
- Creating a budget
- Getting out of debt
- Learning to live within your means
- Taxes and insurance
- Individual coaching

HOUSING COUNSELING & INFORMATION

OLHSA, A Community Action Agency

Phone: 517-546-8500

2300 E. Grand River, Howell, MI 48843

Pre-Purchase Counseling provides information on budgeting, credit, mortgage approval, and mortgage closing within a group setting and individual counseling; Pre-purchase counseling ensures that future homeowners have a good understanding of their mortgage loan and the responsibilities of homeownership. No income qualifications required.

Credit Counseling is a secondary service after attending home buyers education classes and receiving a certificate. These sessions allow individuals who are looking to improve or maintain their credit to meet one-on-one with a certified Credit Counselor who will assist them in determining the best way to approach their situation and improve their financial condition. No income qualifications required.

Foreclosure Counseling provides counseling services to homeowners facing mortgage delinquency or possible foreclosure. OLHSA, A Community Action Agency, is a HUD certified housing counseling agency and does not charge for their services. There are no income qualifications required for Housing counseling services.

Right At Home

www.rightathomeanswers.org

Partnership: National Credit Union Foundation, Michigan Credit Union League, Michigan Association of United Ways, and Michigan State University Extension.

This on-line resource offers comprehensive information on housing issues, including foreclosure information and many links to additional housing-related information resources.

HELPFUL HINTS

- Start communicating with landlord, creditors, etc. as soon as you anticipate a cash flow problem.
 - Organize related bills, documents, and notices. Keep them together in a folder or binder - ready for each consultation.
 - Keep a record of all phone and in-person conversations with lenders, creditors, and counselors; and get promises in writing.
 - A HUD-approved financial counselor can often help budget and re-negotiate debt much more effectively than you could do on your own. Don't be afraid to consult the experts. They can also let you know of your rights.
 - Read everything until you understand it – before signing anything!
-

AVOID SCAMS

- Do not pay up front for information or assistance. Large up-front fees are sure signs of fraud. A reputable counselor may charge reasonable fees, but not before services are rendered.
 - Be wary of service providers who promise a sure thing or a guarantee to keep you in your home or eliminate your debt. There are no guarantees.
 - Avoid solicited offers. Many scams will even include government sounding names or website addresses or agency logos to falsely portray an affiliation with legitimate government programs.
 - Never agree to make payments to an intermediary third party or to anyone other than your Mortgage Company, lenders, etc. without their approval. And don't stop making payments, except on the advice of a trusted attorney or counselor.
 - Consult your attorney before signing over the deed to your property.
-

FREE INCOME TAX FILINGS

OLHSA, A Community Action Agency

Phone: 517-546-8500

2300 E. Grand River, Howell, MI 48843

Tax Preparation Program offers free tax help for individuals and families who are income eligible. Trained volunteers help with special credits, such as Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. We also offer free electronic filing (e-filing) and the option to get your refund direct deposited into your bank account.

i-CAN! E-File Visit www.michiganeic.org for a free electronic tax filing i-CAN! E-File and to see a list of community tax preparation sites

UTILITY ASSISTANCE

Questions to ask your self when thinking about utility expenses (electricity, water, gas, propane, trash, sewer, septic, etc.):

Is there anything you can do to reduce or manage my costs?

Some suggestions:

- Think weatherization like insulation, air leakage reduction, and furnace repair or replacement. For more information on assistance if your house is in need of major weatherization call OLHSA, A Community Action Agency at 517-546-8500. It's free for those who qualify!
- There are many ways to reduce the amount of energy you use. Little things can make a big difference: turning off lights, closing off unused rooms, reducing use of air conditioning, washing clothes with cold water instead of hot, or changing the furnace filter.
- Look into payment plans and/or winter protection programs with your utility company to set regular monthly payments.

Will you be able to pay your upcoming utility bills on time? Or, if you are relocating, can you pay off a past balance to have services transferred to a new address?

Please go to **STEP ONE**.

Are any utility accounts already past due?

Please go to **STEP TWO**.

Are any utility accounts being threatened with a shut-off if not paid?

Please go to **STEP THREE**.

Have services already been shut-off or is there an immediate need for a utility?

Please go to **STEP THREE**.

Steps to Receiving Assistance with Utility Costs

STEP ONE

Many utility companies have case management lines you can call talk about payment plans before your account gets behind. Your provider may allow you to slowly eliminate a past balance without losing your current services. Call to find out. Budget and shut-off protection plans can also often be negotiated. Even if you are unable to pay the balance in full, paying something shows the company that you are making an effort to eliminate the balance. Sometimes something as simple as asking for a different billing date is helpful so that all the bills aren't due at the same time. Try reaching out to your own network of family, friends and community associations for possible resources to help manage the immediate shortfall.

DTE Case Management

Phone: 1-800-477-4747

<http://www.dteenergy.com/residentialCustomers/billingPayment/paymentPrograms/payAssistance.html>

Utility Assistance 1

Consumers Energy Case Management

Phone: 1-800-477-5050; for people with hearing impairments: 1-800-649-3777

<http://www.consumersenergy.com>

If you still have unmet needs, please go to STEP TWO.

STEP TWO

Most assistance programs through the government and community non-profit agencies require your account to achieve the status of “shut-off” before they are able to offer assistance. “Late,” “past due,” and other warnings are not sufficient to trigger eligibility for most programs. Receiving a shut-off notice can be very disconcerting, however there are more resources available to you once you have received one. If you have received a shut-off notice or if you are in immediate need of utilities assistance, please go to STEP THREE.

STEP THREE

Apply for assistance at your local Michigan State Department of Human Service (DHS) office. This step should be completed as soon as you receive a shut-off notice because the process can take several days. *If the utility in jeopardy is water, septic, or trash services, skip to STEP FOUR as the state does not assist with these services.* In addition to the general state assistance application, you will need to complete a State Emergency Relief supplemental application, indicating all of the utility bills requiring assistance. You will be asked to provide shut-off notices, proof of financial claims, proof of family relationships, and address verification. The applications may be obtained at your Department of Human Services reception desk or apply on-line at <http://www.michigan.gov/mibridges>.

Once a completed application has been submitted, a hold may be placed on the utility account by the caseworker, to suspend shut-off of services while the application is in process. These holds are typically 7 to 14 days in length. Call the utility company within a few days of application to check on the hold status. If a hold has not been placed, call your DHS caseworker to check the status of your application.

Your DHS caseworker will contact you to set up an interview. Once a determination is made regarding your eligibility for state assistance, (usually after 4 to 10 days), you will receive a decision notice indicating the services available to you, and if a co-pay is required to satisfy the entire amount (KEEP THIS NOTICE). If DHS cannot meet your entire need, please go to STEP FOUR.

STEP FOUR

Once you present your decision notice from DHS, other community agencies may be able to help you satisfy the co-pay, and/or assist you with bills not covered by DHS such as water bills. If a bill is large, more than one community agency may need to provide assistance. This coordination among community agencies often requires additional paperwork, which can seem duplicative and cumbersome. Please be patient. Community agencies that may offer assistance with utility bills are listed below:

OLHSA, A Community Action Agency
2300 East Grand River; Howell, MI 48843
Phone: 517-546-8500

Walk in or call for an appointment.

The Salvation Army

503 Lake Street; Howell, MI 48843

Phone: 517-546-4750

Assistance is available for all utilities, as funds allow; one time - per 12 months - per utility. Call to schedule an appointment with a caseworker.

HELPFUL HINTS

- The name on the bill must match the name of the person requesting assistance.
- You may still be legally responsible for bills in your married spouse's name— even if you are separated and living at another address.
- To apply for assistance when you are responsible for the utility bill, but the account is listed in the landlord's name - present your lease agreement which stipulates this arrangement.
- Most frequently requested documentation: picture ID, for all adults in the household, proof of custody for all children (birth certificates, immunization records, etc.), documentation of all household income and expenses for the past 30 days, and the account information for the utility bill(s).
- If you receive mail at a post office box, the address listed as the service address on the bill should match the address indicated on your drivers' license.

UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

Unemployment or the loss of one's job affects individuals both emotionally and financially. Typically, the reduction of income is the first noticeable change in the household. As the period of unemployment lengthens, the emotional impact and the resulting stress become greater burdens.

Many of your concerns during periods of unemployment will focus upon financial needs. During this time of reduced income, you should make use of all financial assistance and counseling (career or personal) resources. Below are some programs designed to assist you.

Unemployment Insurance Agency

<http://www.michigan.gov/uia>

Phone: 1-866-500-0017

The Unemployment Insurance Agency administers the State of Michigan's unemployment insurance program, an employer-funded program, which pays weekly unemployment benefits to eligible workers. All unemployed workers should apply for unemployment insurance as soon as they become unemployed to see whether they are eligible. **This is the first step to accessing other services and resources.** For instructions on how to apply, visit the Unemployment Insurance Agency's website at www.michigan.gov/uia, or visit your local Michigan Works! Service Center for printed information.

Your scheduled time for filing by phone is based on the last two digits of your Social Security number. For example, if your Social Security number ends in 50, you would phone in your application on Tuesday afternoon. Workers who are unable to call on their appointed day and time can dial the toll-free number anytime between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm on Thursday or Friday.

<u>Time</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday & Friday</u>
8:00 am to 12:00 pm	00-15	34-48	67-81	OPEN CALL IN
12:30 pm to 4:30 pm	16-33	49-66	82-99	OPEN CALL IN

You can file a new claim by phone or internet. To file an internet claim, visit the UIA website, www.michigan.gov/uia. To file a new claim or reopen an existing claim for benefits by phone, call toll-free at 1-866-500-0017. You can call and file by using a touch-tone telephone from anywhere in the USA or Canada. For TTY callers, use 1-866-366-0004.

Michigan Works! Agencies – One-Stop Service Centers

Michigan Works! Livingston Service Center

1240 Packard Drive Howell, MI 48843

Phone: (517)546-7450

Michigan Works! Livingston Service Center provides employers and job seekers in Livingston County with "one-stop" employment and training information. All job seekers benefit from many services at no cost. These job seeker services include:

- Registration for Michigan's Talent Bank
- Job seeker workshops (register on-line at www.lcmw.org)
- Resources including internet, phone, fax, copier

Assistance with resumes, interviewing skills and other job search skills

- Career assessment and counseling services
- GED preparation
- Useful materials and website links to help explore different careers, examine employment outlook for jobs, and review labor market information

In addition, specialized services are available for those who meet certain eligibility guidelines. These services include:

- Targeted services to laid off workers
- Services for Trade Act eligible workers
- Assistive technology for individuals with disabilities
- Veterans' counselor
- Financial assistance for tuition and books to help individuals learn new job skills
- Supportive services while in training
- Referral to available job openings
- On-the-Job Training

For more information, visit the Livingston County Michigan Works! website at www.lcmw.org. If you do not live in Livingston County, you can find the Michigan Works! Service Center in your community by dialing 1-800-285 WORKS from your home phone, or visiting the Michigan Works Association website at www.michiganworks.org.

Michigan Works! Career Transition Center
125 S. Church St., Brighton, MI 48116
Phone: (810)299-4071

- Career assessment and counseling services **by appointment only** for Trade Act eligible individuals
- Job seeker workshops (register online at www.lcmw.org)

Social Security Benefits

5210 Perry Robinson
Lansing, MI 48911
Phone: (517) 393-3876 or 1-800-772-1213

Social Security benefits include monthly payments made to certain formerly employed persons or their beneficiaries. Generally, those eligible include: retired persons 62 years or older, disabled workers, and spouses and children of disabled or deceased workers. For further information, visit www.socialsecurity.gov.

Plan your Job Search

Of course, the best way to cope with unemployment is to find another job as soon as possible. Planning and implementing an effective job search takes sustained effort. Your local Michigan Works! offers adult education classes to help.

- Be sure to let your friends and colleagues know you are seeking employment – but be specific about your job target. The more clearly you can describe your job goals, the easier it will be for others to identify possible job leads for you.

- People are more likely to help you in your employment search if you provide them with an up-to-date copy of your resume. Many people find job openings through personal contacts and friends, so don't limit the scope of your job search by keeping quiet.
 - Finally, take the initiative. Follow up on all job leads. Call back after the interview and again later if someone else is hired for the job. Perhaps you will learn something which will help in future job searches.
-

HELPFUL HINTS

- Individuals can get more information about filing for unemployment with the Unemployment Insurance Agency at their local Michigan Works! Service Center, however application for unemployment must be made with UIA.
 - If you apply for unemployment online or by phone you will still need an initial in-person visit to your local Michigan Works! Service Center.
 - Michigan Works! offers computer access stations for resumes and job searches.
 - Stay connected to people. Don't abandon your networks. They can offer support, and sometimes help you find your next job.
 - Many people use this hopefully short period of unemployment to spend more time with their families, often improving relationships.
 - Volunteer to help others. There are wonderful opportunities to use your skills; strengthen your resume; learn about your community; make connections; find purpose in your daily life; and help to make your community a better place to live. Go to volunteerlivingston.com for volunteer opportunities in Livingston County, or talk to your church outreach worker.
 - Exercise, take up a sport, read, devote time to your passions and your interests. Use this time for positive growth.
-

HOUSING ASSISTANCE

Questions to ask yourself when thinking about housing expenses (house payments, rent, taxes, association fees, etc.):

Is there anything you can do to reduce or manage the cost?

Some suggestions:

- Talk to your landlord or mortgage company about options.
- Consider ways to reduce costs within your current residence like getting a roommate or sharing housing expenses with family members.
- Negotiate with your home owners association to reduce association fees or substitute payment for labor.
- Keep track of your monthly expenses and identify nonessential services that could be canceled to free up additional housing dollars.

Steps to Receiving Assistance with Housing Expenses

There are many different types of housing circumstances, some individuals rent, some own, some people live with friends, others share their home with their extended family. As a result of the various housing scenarios, there is no single approach to addressing every housing concern. **This portion of the tool kit is intended to assist individuals who do NOT own their home.** For homeowners, please refer to the *FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE* portion of the tool kit for information about foreclosure prevention and other resources.

STEP ONE

Many landlords and apartment management companies are able to work with tenants who are proactive and upfront about their inability to pay rent on time. Negotiating a later due date or paying a partial amount can help bridge gaps when resources are limited. You may want to consider if your current housing still fits your needs and ability to pay. A common rule of thumb is that individuals who pay no more than thirty percent of their monthly income on housing are better able to afford to meet their other basic needs.

If you still have unmet needs, please go to STEP TWO.

STEP TWO

The first step to seeking help with housing costs (rent, security deposit, short-term emergency housing) is to contact OLHSA, A Community Action Agency. The application process for many housing assistance programs may be lengthy and require a significant amount of personal information. All services offered through OLSHA are confidential, and your personal information is protected.

If OLHSA cannot meet your entire need, please go to STEP THREE.

STEP THREE

Other community agencies may be called upon to help satisfy the full amount needed. This coordination among community agencies often requires additional paperwork, which can seem duplicative and cumbersome. Please be patient. Community agencies that may offer assistance with rent and related expenses are listed below:

OLHSA, A Community Action Agency
2300 East Grand River; Howell, MI 48843
Phone: 517-546-8500
Walk-in or call for an appointment.

The Salvation Army
503 Lake Street; Howell, MI 48843
Phone: 517-546-4750
Please call for an appointment.

HELPFUL HINTS

- Most frequently requested documentation: picture ID. for all adults in the family, proof of custody for all children (birth certificates, immunization records, etc.), documentation of all household income and expenses for the past 30 days, and any information to verify your housing situation.
 - Moving can be very expensive, avoid multiple moves whenever possible.
 - Be sure to screen and check out potential roommates before they move in.
 - You have rights as a tenant. Know your rights to live in a safe, hazard-free environment.
-

FREE LEGAL SELF-HELP TOOLS

www.MichiganLegalHelp.org

This interactive website was built to help persons who are not able to afford a lawyer handle simple civil legal matters on their own. Content areas include consumer, family, protection orders, landlord/tenant, and expungement matters. The website contains articles, toolkits, forms, legal services lists, and information.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

If you have lost your health care coverage and you need medical care, consult your doctor or hospital for available payment plans.

HOSPITALS & CLINICS

St. Joseph Mercy Livingston (Livingston County's only full-service hospital) 24-hr emergency
620 Byron Road, Howell, MI 48843 (517) 545-6000 www.sjmercyhealth.org

Brighton Health Center -7575 Grand River, Brighton, MI 48114 (810) 844-7575

Emergency Department 24 hours a day (810) 844-7511

Cancer Center Monday – Friday 8am- 4:30pm (810) 844-7250

McAuley Support Program – Offers financial assistance for medically necessary in-patient services to qualified uninsured and underinsured residents. Call 734-712-2009 for information.

Faith Medical Clinic

122 S Howell Street, Pinckney, MI 48169 (734) 474-4627

This is a free nondenominational medical clinic, available to uninsured persons 18 - 64 years of age. The clinic is located in Pinckney and operates Saturdays from 9am to 1pm. Walk-in clients can generally be accommodated and Livingston County residency is not required.

St. Luke Hometown Healthcare

9912 E. Grand River Ave. Ste 1000, Brighton, MI 48116 (810) 623-8182 www.stlukehome.com

Offers basic health care and psychiatric services at reasonable prices, for those without insurance. Call for an appointment.

HEALTH PLANS

Livingston County Health Department

2300 E. Grand River, Howell, MI 48843 (517) 546-9850 www.co.livingston.mi.us

(Also provides a wide range of medical testing and screening for disease including immunizations, TB testing, HIV testing, flu clinics, hearing & vision screenings.)

MI Child Registration –State health plan for uninsured children, ages 18 & younger, of working families at or below 200% of federal poverty level. Use the on-line calculator at healthcare4mi.com, to determine eligibility.

Women Infants & Children (WIC) – Serves low-income pregnant and breastfeeding women, and their children up to age 5. The program also screens clients for health problems and makes referrals to health services.

Livingston County Health Plan B

Livingston County Health Department, 2300 E. Grand River, Howell, MI 48843
(517)546-9850 www.co.livingston.mi.us

This is a county-funded health plan which assists residents with out-patient health care costs. Enrollment and physician participation is fairly limited. Eligibility is based on annual household income equal to or less than 150% of the Federal poverty level and limited assets.

Medicaid

Livingston County Department of Human Services, 2300 E. Grand River, Howell, MI (517)548-0200 www.michigan.gov/helpinghand

Medicaid is a government health care program available to persons that are aged, blind or disabled and families or eligible parents/caretaker relatives for a dependent child.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG ASSISTANCE

Large Retailers

Many large retail stores with pharmacies, such as *Target, Kroger, Meijer* and *Walmart* offer low-cost prescription medications and generic drugs or free antibiotics. Visit these pharmacies to check which medications are included in the program and ask your physician if these medications would be appropriate to treat your condition.

Livingston County Prescription Drug Program

This program is available to Livingston County residents who are disabled or over 60 years of age, and have no other prescription coverage. There are no enrollment costs, and the program provides average discounts of 20% to 30% at participating pharmacies. Discounts vary, and not all prescriptions are covered. Contact the Livingston Department of Public Health to apply in person; by phone 517-546-9850; by FAX 517-546-6995; or by mail 2200 East Grand River Ave., Suite 102, Howell, MI 48843-7580. Download a pre-enrollment form at www.lchd.org.

Prescription Drug Patient Assistance

If your diagnosis requires non-generic medications or medications not on the discounted formularies, visit www.NeedyMeds.org for possible patient assistance programs.

DENTAL CARE

VINA (Vision, Integrity, Need and Action) Community Dental Center

400 E. Grand River Ave., Brighton, MI 48116, (810) 844-0240 www.vinadental.org

This dental clinic is staffed by volunteer professionals and provides services to Livingston County residents - adults 19 years of age and older, who lack dental insurance, with household incomes at or less than 200% of federal poverty level. Nominal fee per office visit.

Renaissance Health Savings Card

Livingston County Health Department 2300 E. Grand River, Howell, MI 48843 (517) 546-9850 www.co.livingston.mi.us

This is not dental insurance or a dental plan, but rather a discount program featuring 20% - 55% savings on common dental services and procedures at participating providers. Nominal annual fee. No eligibility requirements. Available to individuals and families.

For additional information call 2-1-1.

TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE

As a relatively small, semi-rural county, with 60% of county residents commuting outside the county to work, and limited public transportation systems - reliable personal transportation is critical.

Questions to ask yourself when thinking about transportation expenses (maintenance, gas, insurance, etc.):

Is there anything you can do to reduce or manage the cost?

Some suggestions:

- Maintaining even tire pressure, a clean air filter, and regularly changing your oil can help improve gas mileage.
- Visit radio stations and internet sites that monitor and report the best gas prices in your area.
- Locate professional carpools and park-and-ride opportunities in your area.
- Consider walking, taking a public bus, or biking if conditions allow.
- Share rides with friends and family members and coordinate outings to frequently visited places like the grocery store or school.
- Talk to your insurance provider to see if they can help you reduce costs.

Are you at risk of falling behind on payments associated with your automobile?

If you are worried about falling behind on your car payment, talk to your lender before you miss your first payment. Schedule an appointment to review your options and talk about your alternatives. You may be able to negotiate with your lender to reduce your payment, skip a payment, or change your payment due date. If you have already missed a payment, initiate the conversation with your lender.

Michigan drivers are required to carry a minimum of no-fault automobile insurance, but it may make sense to reduce your coverage or raise your deductible to lower your insurance costs, at least for the short-term.

Steps to Receiving Assistance with Transportation

STEP ONE – your existing support systems

Consider existing natural supports that exist within your network of family, friends, church, service clubs, and other associations. Perhaps some of your transportation needs can be met by coordinating within your community networks, and planning ahead. Some churches and non-profit agencies provide volunteer driver programs available to their members on a limited basis.

If your needs are not met, go to STEP TWO.

STEP TWO – community transportation systems

If your transportation needs cannot be met within your personal and community networks, there are very limited community transportation resources. The following resources can help if you

have regularly scheduled engagements; are staying within the county, or in some cases slightly into adjacent counties; and can plan ahead to schedule pick-up and drop-off:

Livingston Essential Transportation Service (L.E.T.S.)

3950 W Grand River Avenue, Howell, MI 48855

Phone: 517-546-6600

Please call to schedule a ride (at least 1 day in advance), and to determine costs.

People's Express (Washtenaw County & adjacent areas)

Phone: 877-214-6073

Please call M-F 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. to schedule a ride (at least 3 days in advance), and to determine costs.

Ride Connect

Phone: 866-977-9423

www.rideconnect.info (on-line search for available transportation in Washtenaw, and other limited selected areas)

If these community transportation resources cannot meet your needs, go to Step Three.

STEP THREE – transportation-related cash assistance

Many local non-profit agencies, such as those listed below, may offer help in the form of gas card vouchers, bus tokens or car repair programs, on an extremely limited basis, especially if you meet the eligibility requirements of one or more of their programs and have an open case with at least one of the agencies. Consult your caseworker for availability.

Livingston County

Department of Human Services (DHS)

2300 E Grand River Ave, Howell, MI 48843

Phone: (517)548-0200

OLHSA, A Community Action Agency

2300 E Grand River, Howell, MI 48843

Phone: 517-546-8500

Love in the Name of Christ

Phone Assistance Line: 517-552-3620

The Salvation Army

503 Lake Street, Howell, MI 48843

Phone: 517-546-4750

Brighton Senior Center

850 Spencer Rd., Brighton, MI 48116

Phone: 1-810-299-3817

Call M-F by 2:00 p.m. at least one day in advance for Medical Transportation.

Provided M-Th, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Must be age 50 or older or physically challenged. Wheelchair lift access.

Cost varies, based on distance.

Hartland Senior Center

9525 Highland Rd, Hartland, MI 48353

Phone: 810-626-2135

Medical, Shopping, and Social Transport Provided M-F, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Must be age 50 or older or disabled and a resident of Hartland School District, Tyrone or Deerfield Townships.

Wheelchair lift access. Door to Door Service

Cost varies, based on distance.