“As COVID-19 continues to impact our country, I am committed to providing our most vulnerable - children and seniors - with the resources they need. My office is here to help and serve as you prepare, respond and recover.”

- U.S. Congressman Daniel Webster (FL-11)

HELP FOR OUR SENIORS AND CHILDREN

MEALS & FOOD ASSISTANCE

Legislation recently passed by Congress and signed by President Trump provides additional funding to ensure our most vulnerable have access to meals and food.

⇒ $500 million for WIC and allows adult care centers to provide meals to go to eligible individuals.

⇒ $250 million for the Senior Nutrition program in the Administration for Community Living (ACL) to serve approximately 25 million additional home-delivered and pre-packaged meals to low-income seniors who depend on the Senior Nutrition programs in their communities. This funding will provide meals to low-income seniors:
  • who are home-bound;
  • who have disabilities;
  • who have multiple chronic illnesses;
  • as well as caregivers for seniors who are home-bound.

⇒ $400 million to assist local food banks in meeting the demand for low-income Americans during the coronavirus emergency.

⇒ The Department of Agriculture can approve state plans to provide emergency EBT food assistance to households with children who would otherwise receive free or reduce-priced meals if not for their schools being closed due to the coronavirus emergency.

⇒ To find free meals for children under age 18, Floridians can text FLKIDSMEALS to 211-211 to find their closest participating Summer BreakSpot location, and can also call 2-1-1 to speak with a live operator 24 hours a day for additional locations.

⇒ Our School Districts are also providing meals at no cost to students under 18, more information is available at each school district listed below:
  • Citrus County Schools locations and times
  • Hernando County Schools locations and times
  • Lake County Schools locations and times
  • Marion County Schools crisis hotline: (352) 644-2590
  • Sumter County Schools locations and times

⇒ Citrus County Blessings: a local meal provider service that is currently allowing families to submit applications for their services.
ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

Medicare patients will now be able to be evaluated, receive preventative health screenings, and other services without leaving their home. This increase in flexibility is not diagnosis-specific, allowing Medicare beneficiaries to use telehealth for various healthcare concerns. This helps avoid unnecessarily entering a healthcare facility while still getting their healthcare needs met. It allows individuals to access healthcare while practicing social distancing and other guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

MORGAGE PAYMENTS

The Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) has directed Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac (the Enterprises) to suspend foreclosures and evictions for at least 60 days due to the coronavirus national emergency. The foreclosure and eviction suspension applies to homeowners with an Enterprise-backed single-family mortgage.

Mortgage payments can be suspended for up to 12 months due to hardship caused by coronavirus.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES DURING SCHOOL CLOSURES

- NASA: free, online STEM resources and educational games to students - grades K-4, 5-8, & 9-12.
- Energy Information Administration: online puzzles, riddles, experiments and a downloadable activity book teaching students about energy types, energy sources and smart uses of energy.
- Environment Protection Agency: activities, lessons, games, and resources on the following topics: air, climate, ecosystems, energy, health, recycling and water.
- National Science Foundation: curriculums, guides and activities exploring individual categories and pages on topics like engineering, computing, physics, biology, chemistry and astronomy.
- National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration: one-stop-shop for information, multimedia and lesson plans on individual topics; 9 hands-on activities that can be done in 30 minutes or less.
- Smithsonian: a variety of podcasts, apps and games that engage students in STEM learning through their Science Education Center - Free Resources & Games.
- University Corporation for Atmospheric Research: extensive amount of activities related to meteorology.
- Scholastic Magazines: day-by-day, cross-curricular projects built around a meaningful story or video for students, grades Pre-K to K, 1 to 2, 3 to 5, and 6+. Family-friendly.
- BADM Creativity Catapult: over 100 family-friendly exercises that help build STEM knowledge, imagination, decision-making and other skills.
- Library of Congress: a wide variety of resources geared toward helping teachers in their lesson plans.
- By The People: provides students with opportunities to decipher and transcribe historical documents from the LOC collections, building on their skills in close reading, examining historical context and interpretive consensus.
- Primary Source Sets: introductions to frequently-taught topics that feature photos, maps, music and more, as well as Teachers Guides.
- National Gallery of Art: offers hundreds of lesson plans organized by grade level and theme, an online course about teaching critical thinking through art and a module series entitled Uncovering America; other NGA resources - NGAKids Art Zone: app for iPad, Look Together Activities, An Eye for Art.
- Verizon Innovative Learning Program: education initiative targeting Title 1 middle schools by tripling their data allowances beginning March 16, upgrading plans from 10GB/month to 30GB/month for the next two months.
- AT&T Distance Learning Program: a “one-stop” resource center to support eLearning Days from the State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA).