

We care about all of our Everett Public Schools families and we know that many are experiencing economic impacts due to the current state of affairs. If not your family directly, you may know others who are starting to question whether there is any help available. Here are some resources that you may want to be aware of for your family, or possibly for your others who may come to your attention:

Visit [WashingtonConnection.org](https://www.washingtonconnection.org) to determine eligibility or to start an application for assistance for food, cash, childcare, or healthcare in Washington State.

Disaster Cash Assistance Program:

The Disaster Cash Assistance Program (DCAP) is available to Washington residents **who would not normally be eligible for cash assistance** regardless of citizenship status, and does not require applicants to provide a Social Security number. This is financial assistance available for one month out of a 12 month period during times of emergency. Apply for DCAP online at [WashingtonConnection.org](https://www.washingtonconnection.org)

Unemployment Benefits:

Anyone who has lost their job due to coronavirus, has reduced hours, or has had to take time off from their job to self-quarantine or care for a sick relative (and does not get paid sick time from work) should apply for Unemployment Benefits with the Employment Security Division (ESD, esd.wa.gov).

Unemployment benefits have been expanded for those who might not typically qualify, like gig workers and independent contractors.

Food Assistance

Using Food Lifeline, you can locate the nearest meal programs and Food Banks [here](#); Food Lifeline can also help you check your eligibility for programs like SNAP and EBT [here](#) (if you're already enrolled in one of these programs, see [here](#) for more information about Fresh Bucks). For meals to help families impacted by school closures, King 5 has a list of grab-and-go locations [here](#), and Snohomish County [here](#) and Skagit County [here](#). All of this food is free and available for students as well as other youth 18 and under, even if you don't use SNAP or EBT. You can see the comprehensive response from the Food and Nutrition Service [here](#).

- More information on the Meals on Wheels program for seniors through Senior Services of Snohomish County Nutrition Program at 425-347-1229 or toll-free at 800-824-2183.
- Within Reach's Help Me Grow Hotline is at 1-800-322-2588; hotline hours are Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The hotline provides information about food, health care access, child development, breastfeeding, immunizations, and other resources including WIC state hotline/locations & screening. Visit parenthelp123.org.

Rental Assistance:

Until the end of this state of emergency, landlords will not be able to begin most eviction actions in court. In the meantime, there are a number of rental assistance organizations available if you need support right now. WSFB maintains a list of emergency rental assistance resources linked [here](#). The best practice is to contact your landlord as soon as possible, have all communication about your rent in writing, and know there is a temporary moratorium on evictions.

If you lose your home and are in certain temporary living situations, your students may be eligible for additional support through their school under the federal McKinney-Vento act. Contact the school counselor to learn more or visit www.everettsd.org/KIT for more information.

Helpful links:

Rental Assistance/Landlord Negotiation Volunteers of America Western Washington <https://www.voaww.org/>

Offers resources and services in times of need; including programs designed to prevent homelessness and assistance in negotiating payment arrangements with landlords.

Q. I have received a pay-or-vacate notice.

A. Please contact 211 to screen for Homelessness Prevention services. Note: eligibility criteria applies to receive this service. When Homelessness Prevention doesn't fit for you, consider Landlord-Tenant negotiation during this challenging time.

VOAWW Homelessness Prevention 211 or (800) 223-8156

Q. I am facing eviction but have not contacted my landlord. I am fearful to do so.

A. Please contact Joseph Harter at VOAWW for more information and assistance in connecting with your Landlord and discovering options. Joseph Harter (425) 212-2956 gharter@voaww.org

Trouble Paying Your Mortgage

If you do not have enough money in savings to cover your mortgage payment or rent, contact your lender or landlord immediately. Don't wait until you're behind on payments. Lenders may work with you to waive late fees, set up a repayment plan or offer loan forbearance.

The Washington State Attorney General is also enforcing the eviction moratoriums, go [here](#) to file a complaint.

If you lose your home and are in certain temporary living situations, your students may be eligible for additional support through their school under the federal McKinney-Vento act. Contact your school counselor to learn more or visit www.everettsd.org/KIT for more information.

- [The Tenants Union](#) operates a hotline (206-723-0500) and walk-in hours, which can be helpful if you are issued a notice or late fees during this moratorium.
- Speaking of payment plans, see the following from the [Seattle Times](#): *Don't expect a landlord to agree to a payment plan that's going to last more than a year, said William Justyk, a real estate attorney with landlord clients who also volunteers with the Housing Justice Project. But offering to pay back what you owe in six months is "reasonable," he said. As for a short timeline, like "three months — I would encourage a landlord to accept that." Don't oversell your ability to pay, though. Ask your landlord not to slap on any late fees and "go out as far as the landlord will let you," said Mark Chattin, the director of Catholic Community Services of Western Washington's tenant law center. "We still don't know how long this will go on."*
- Washington LawHelp is a library of free "know your rights" articles, videos, court forms and do-it-yourself packets covering many common legal issues such as family law, housing, public benefits and money/debt problems. This site also includes a directory of legal aid programs in Washington state. It's a good place to start researching your legal issue. Visit www.washingtonlawhelp.org/. See also the LGBTQ+ clinic information [here](#).
- There is a federal eviction moratorium lasting until July 25, 2020 on properties with federal subsidies or properties with federally-insured mortgages. Here is a [memo](#) explaining this moratorium from the National Housing Law Project. You can look up if your property has a federal subsidy [here](#).
- If you can't get your landlord to work with you in the future, receiving an eviction notice doesn't mean you leave immediately! See [here](#) for a breakdown of what an eviction notice means.
- Landlords should be aware of this resource through the [Washington State Department of Commerce](#).

Utility Bills:

Contact your phone, internet, and cable providers as soon as possible; be sure to specifically mention you are impacted by coronavirus/COVID-19.

PUD and Puget Sound Energy (PSE) have a [moratorium on shutoffs](#) during this outbreak and all have emergency financial assistance programs that may be able to support you, which are linked below. WSFB's Helpline services maintains an additional list of assistance organizations linked [here](#). Community Action Partnership keeps a list of organizations providing financial assistance with energy bills [here](#) and WUTC has another list [here](#)

Helpful links:

- New Internet Essentials customers with Comcast will receive two free months of internet. You will receive a self-install kit that includes a cable modem with a WiFi router. More information [here](#).
- Energy Assistance is still accepting applications. Customers are being asked to call 425-388-3880 to schedule a phone appointment. Appointments are being scheduled for mid-April going forward. Please call the Energy Line at 425-388-3880 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., or between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday and on Wednesday at 9:15 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. or between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.
- City of Everett Water Service Catholic Community Services (CCS) administers an, “Everett Water Utilities” program. If people are on Everett Water and get shut off notices, CCS has program that may be able to help. A shut off notice will be required to determine eligibility. Please call (425) 257-2111 for more information.
- Puget Sound Energy PSE will not be disconnecting customers during this time. PSE received approval from the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission for a waiver that allows PSE to waive late fees. PSE will work with our customers on options such as payment plans and choosing a new bill due date. PSE launched a new energy assistance portal to improve access to funds available to low income customers.
- Most mobile phone networks are not shutting off for nonpayment and waiving late fees. Call your provider and mention specifically you are impacted by coronavirus. More information about T-Mobile [here](#), call AT&T at 800-288-2020, and see the roundup of phone providers including Verizon at [this link](#).
- InterConnection.org/retailstore and Connectall.org have discounted technology including any internet use for \$74 here and mobile hotspots for individuals to stay connected. There are also affordable computer monitors for sale: <https://connectall.org/peripherals-26.html>

Health Insurance

In Washington State, go to wahealthplanfinder.org, to find out more including low-to-no-cost options for health insurance (For those who qualify for Medicaid through [Washington Apple Health](#), this is available year-round.) Call customer support Monday-Friday between 7:30am-5:30pm, at 855-923-4633. Language assistance and disability accommodations are provided. Testing for Coronavirus is covered for all insurance enrollees who meet the CDC requirement for testing.

Helpful links:

- In addition to suspending prior authorization requirements for treatment/testing of COVID-19, insurers must also allow a one-time early refill for prescription drugs. Read more [here](#).
- [Community clinics](#) offer free or low-cost medical services including prenatal care. There's a flat fee of \$35 for a virtual visit with Franciscan [here](#) or their free TeleDoc for anyone with coronavirus symptoms [here](#). Also try wahealthcareaccessalliance.org/free-clinics, freeclinicdirectory.org, or the Community Health Access Program [here](#).
- Information about healthcare access for people who are undocumented [here](#).
- Financial assistance programs help uninsured patients who cannot afford to pay their medical bills and don't qualify for government aid. The patient services department of your [local hospital](#) can help you find out if you're eligible. Reach out to the hospital before your medical service and explain your situation. If you don't qualify, the hospital may offer a payment plan.
- NeedyMeds is an online information resource of programs that provide assistance to people who are unable to afford their medications or healthcare costs. Their discount card can save up to 80% on prescriptions. Visit needymeds.org/newuser.

File Taxes: If you haven't already done so, file your taxes. Consider using myfreetaxes.com. While Free Tax Preparation sites are temporarily closed, you can visit <https://www.getyourrefund.org> to chat with someone to help you file your taxes if you need back up. The federal government has also [extended the filing deadline to July 15](#). If you need additional help you can call United Way at 833-540-0800 from 11am - 4pm, Mondays through Fridays.