Mercer County Resources Updates & Closings due to COVID-19

CLOTHING & FOOD BANK INFORMATION

Abundant Life Christian Church
1901 N. Olden Avenue
Suite 25, Ewing, NJ
609-883-9780
4th. Saturday of each month, 9am to 12 noon

A Better Way @ Turning Point United Methodist Church
15 S. Broad Street
Trenton, NJ
609-392-1224
(Contact: Perry Shaw, Exec. Dir, Jayne Gordon, Pantry Supervisor)
Mondays & Fridays, 12pm to 1:30 pm. Services suspended until March 27, 2020

Arm In Arm
123 E. Hanover Street
Trenton, NJ
609-396-9355
Monday thru Thursday 9:30am to 12 noon.

Arm In Arm
48 Hudson Street
Trenton, NJ
609-396-9355
Monday thru Thursday 9:30am to 12 noon.

Homefront
1880 Princeton Ave. Lawrenceville, NJ
609-989-9417
**UPDATED FOOD PANTRY HOURS:** Monday, 11am-2pm; Tuesday, 3pm-6pm; Thursday, 11am-2pm. Distribution from loading dock area, side of building.

Meals on Wheels of Mercer County
320 Hollowbrook Road
Ewing, NJ.
609-695-3483
(Contact: Sasa Montano)
Monday through Friday, 10:30am to 1pm. **UPDATE: Volunteers must first be vetted & trained. No open call/just show ups, please call 1st.**

Sacred Heart Church
343 S. Broad Street
UPDATE: Eliminated distribution for wk of 3/22/2020, only 1 distribution, month by month basis until further notice.

Resurrection Lutheran Church-Pat’s Giving Hearts Pantry
4315 Nottingham Way
Trenton, NJ.
UPDATE 3/20/20: CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

St. Raphael Holy Angels Food Pantry
Hamilton, NJ.
609-585-3848.
UPDATE: Food Pantry CLOSED, Distribution only.

Mercer Street Friends Food Pantries
They are working with the School district to provide weekend food bags for families of four (4). I will be attaching the information with this document.

YMCA Grab and Go Meals-
The Capital Area YMCA will begin distribution of free Gran and Go meals starting March 17 at the following locations:
Greenwood Ave Farmers Market 427 Greenwood Avenue 12 pm- to 2 pm
Columbus Park, Corner of Chestnut and Hamilton Ave 11:30 am to 1:30 pm
Westminster Presbyterian Church 1140 Greenwood Ave 11:45 am to 1:45 pm
Villa Park, 999 Lyndale Ave 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm
Capital Area YMCA, 431 Pennington Ave 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm
Roberto Clemente Park , 342 North Academy Street 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm
Cooper Park 400 Street 11:30 am to 1:30 pm.

MERCER COUNTY AREA GROCERY STORE UPDATES

For an extended list of area grocery stores have altered their hours and services due to safety precautions necessitated by the spread of COVID-19. Please visit: https://communitynews.org/2020/03/24/mercer-county-area-grocery-store-update/
It was updated on 3/24/2020
COMMUNITY RESOURCES

HOUSING

Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey
145 West Hanover Street
Trenton, NJ 08618
Phone: 609-393-3752
Fax: 609-393-9016
Website: www.hcdnnj.org

Additional Housing Policy Recommendations during COVID-19 Mortgage Forbearance & Rental Assistance
(https://www.hcdnnj.org/assets/documents/Additional%20Mortgage%20and%20Rental%20Assistance%20Recommendations%20March%202020.pdf)

NJOneApp – For information regarding Social Services
https://oneapp.dhs.state.nj.us/

Financial Assistance amid the business shutdowns and curfews is available through the Princeton Children’s fund. The Coronavirus Emergency Expense Fund (CEEF) was created to assist residents affected by the coronavirus outbreak and in need of financial assistance. Please read the criteria below BEFORE completing the intake form.

Applicant Criteria
1. RESIDENCY: Must be a Princeton resident, or have a child who attends a Princeton Public school
2. COVID-RELATED: Debt must have occurred because of Coronavirus on or after March 9, 2020
3. OTHER OPTIONS: Must have exhausted eligible public assistance programs including, but not limited to: Unemployment Insurance Benefits (UIB), Princeton Housing Stability Coalition, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), General Assistance (GA), LIHEAP, employer assistance funds, etc.
4. INCOME: Household income (pre- and post-Coronavirus outbreak) must fall below the 2019 COAH income limits

For more information:
Princeton Human Services 1 Monument Drive Princeton, NJ 08540 609-688-2055 murias@princeton.org

211 - The lines now has texting so families can be connected. Below is the information
Call: 2-1-1 information or 1-800-962-1253
Text: NJCOVID to 898-211 for updates
Text: Your zip code to 898-211 for live text assistance.

**Makers Place Diaper Distribution**

As of now they are suspending this Thursday's (March 19th, 2020) diaper distribution.

**PSE&G:**

- Temporarily closing our customer service centers, while leveraging our enhanced technology platforms to stay connected with customers;

- **Stopping residential shut-offs for non-payment and providing deferred payment and financial assistance options;**

- Operating according to Centers for Disease Control’s social distancing guidelines;

- Where we must interact, proactive screening of employees and customers before they interact, and providing workers with personal protective equipment;

- Directing employees who can work from home to do so; and

- Temporarily suspending non-critical repair work where feasible.
**SCHOOL SYSTEM**

**UPDATE 3/27/2020**- Gov. Phil Murphy said a decision regarding the reopening of schools in the state will not be made until April 17th at the earliest, a month after the governor’s executive order.

**Trenton Public Schools**-
Per TPS letter issued to parents:
- Governor Phil Murphy issued an Executive Order closing schools indefinitely. In compliance with the directive, the Trenton Public Schools will be closed until further notice.
- Food service operations will continue: Grab and Go, Breakfast and Lunch meals, can be picked up daily from Mott Elementary, Joyce Kilmer School, Martin Luther King Elementary and Trenton Central High Schools between the hours of 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. TPS plan to expand our locations starting the week of March 30, 2020.
- TPS Hotline number: (609) 656-4930.

**HEALTHCARE**

**UPDATE 3/27/2020**-
**Capital Health**
At the moment Capital Health is allowing one visitor to be with the mother after delivery (during her stay at the hospital). However, if this person leaves the room and goes into the cafeteria the person will be escorted out of the hospital to minimize the risk of spreading the virus. Doulas can be assigned as the designated visitor during this time.

- Gov. Murphy has signed legislation to expand temporary disability insurance and family leave insurance.

- Residents who want to donate personal protective equipment to assist medical professionals should contact www.covid.nj.gov/PPEdonations or PPEdonations@njsp.org

- All elective surgeries and invasive procedures performed on adults that are scheduled to take place after 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 27 are to be suspended. (https://covid19.nj.gov/)

- Capital Health, St. Francis and Henry J. Austin will provide do their clients appointments through telemedicine for clinic visits next week. For Henry J. Austin a client would have to call the Call Center so they can schedule a visit through Telemedicine. People are being screened at the doors but they are operational.
Mental Health Services

The Rescue Mission is open including their Behavioral Unit
Per their website:

- Services provided includes: Telehealth appointments with the Henry J. Austin Health Center, a Federally Qualified Health Clinic, and counseling sessions through our licensed partner providers. Each of these Telehealth conferences is conducted in an area where the individual has complete privacy.
- All visitors and volunteer services have been suspended and vendors entering the building have been curtailed for the time being.
- For now, they have arranged for clients to have 15-minute phone visits on Skype, which can be scheduled in time slots between 9:00 am and 2:45 pm. Clients can reserve time for these calls.
- Any new individuals who are admitted to their program go through intake screening by our registered nurse, and their admission must be supported by documents from the referral source. Additional measures are taken as deemed necessary by their medical staff.
- Clients who have completed the program are still being discharged.
- Family members can also contact their loved one’s counselor by email or phone with questions. If you do not have the contact information for the counselor, please send to Amanda at amandam@rmtrenton.org or 609.695.1436 ext. 303 and she will have the counselor contact you.

Catholic Charities

They will continue to provide in-site services. In addition to this, they will be providing Telehealth and Telemental Health Services. People need to call: 1-800-360-7711.
Address: 132 N Warren St, Trenton, NJ 08608
Phone: (609) 421-8169

El Centro Catholic Charities location:
Address: 327 S Broad St, Trenton, NJ 08608
Hours:
9 AM to 7PM
Phone: 609-394-2056
**EMPLOYMENT & ASSISTANCE SERVICES**

https://www.njhelps.org/

This site helps families in New Jersey to verify if they are eligible for food assistance (SNAP, cash assistance (WFNJ/TANF or WFNJ/GA) as well as health insurance (NJ Family Care/Medicaid). From there you can apply for services or learn about additional resources.

-The https://jobs.covid19.nj.gov/ website has a portal where people can find opening for employment in New Jersey.

**COMMUNITY AND HOME VISITATION PROGRAMS**

**Children’s Futures**

NFP and Doula Program - The Nurse Family Partnership is continuing to recruit mothers using Zoom during this time. Doulas can also keep in contact and provide support to mothers for their deliveries using Zoom as well during this time.

-They will be working via Telehealth and one on one (as needed) while the rest of our CF team will work remotely from home. NFP has granted permission to open new clients via video chat. We are also able to waive the 28-week rule for clients during this time

Healthy Start- The Family Support Center will be closed until March 28, 2020 except on Thursday March 19 and 27 from 12 to 4 for free pregnancy testing and emergency resources.

**Children’s Home Society:**

Per their Facebook page:

“To assist with the coordination of the State’s efforts to appropriately prepare for and respond to the public health crisis posed by Coronavirus disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) and following Governor Murphy’s Executive Order 107, we are practicing social distancing, therefore, the building is closed to participants.

CHS will be operating the WIC Mercer Program with a modified weekly schedule utilizing a “drive-thru/walk-thru” option when picking-up benefits only. All participants, regardless of which clinic they normally go to, can use the “drive-thru/walk-thru” to access WIC benefits. Effective Monday, March 23rd, 2020, and until further notice, the WIC Program will only be operating out of the Bellevue Avenue location between the hours of 8 am and 2 pm Monday through Friday. Participants within a valid certification period have the option to have their checks sent to the address on file by first class mail upon request.

Initial Certification is limited to newborn 8 weeks old or less and other categories on a case-by-case basis. To schedule an appointment call: (609) 498-7755.”
Early Head Start Program
HS/EHS program will be closed for
children until March 27th but staff will continue working and providing services from
home. They will continue to accept referrals; staff will do the first intake with clients
by phone and accepts documentation for
applications via email or phone. Appointments to meet clients in person will be
scheduled for after March 27th. EHS will Doulas continue working with pregnant
mothers providing services 24/7 as needed.

WIC Program
They are modifying their hours and their offsite clinics have closed. The WIC program
will continue to see clients at this time. They recommended that new clients
(expectant mothers) not go in to the office as they consider them a high risk
population. Overall they do not yet know how this will impact them, so I’d suggest
calling or having the clients call in directly to WIC when referring clients to WIC.

Breastfeeding Support Group
Currently they are not having face-to-face meetings with moms and the support
groups will not be meeting at this time. They will be providing instead breastfeeding
support over the phone. If a mom comes to her WIC appointment and is interested
in breastfeeding they will provide a bag with educational information and then they
would have to leave the office to minimize any risk.

Mercer Street Friends - Healthy Families and Parents as Teachers Home Visitation
Programs
Mercer Street Friends has implemented travel restrictions for all home visiting
staff. Due to this, visits with families will be taking place through video/telephone
calls. At this time, it appears that it will not be possible to conduct
intakes/enrollments with families due to this.

Children’s Home Society Family Success Centers.
At this time the Family Success Centers will remain open, All of our group
activities/workshops have been cancelled until further notice. They will still be able
to provide resources over the phone and with appointments. They are instructing to
follow them on Facebook at Heritage South Family Success Center for more
information, or via email at sgarci@chsfnj.org or esellas@chsfnj.org. Staff might
be working from home so Facebook/ messenger is an option as well.

LADEF
Per their news letter” We have decided to close our LALDEF office, 714 – 716 S
Clinton Avenue in Trenton, effective immediately, beginning Monday March 16 –
Tuesday March 31. LALDEF’s staff will be working remotely during these next two
weeks. We will be moving to remote and virtual communication as our primary way
of interacting with our clients across our department areas during this time. Please
check our website for updates on all our programming during these next
two weeks: https://laldef.org/.
Other Facilities Closing in Mercer County:
- The McDade Administration Building, 640 South Broad St.
- Office of the County Clerk, 209 South Broad St.
  Board of Social Services, 200 Woolverton St.
  One-Stop Career Center, 26 Yard Ave.
  Cooperative Extension of Mercer County, 1440 Parkside Ave., Ewing
  Mercer County Connection, Route 33 at Paxson Ave., Hamilton
  all branches of the Mercer County Library System;
  Mercer County Improvement Authority, 80 Hamilton Ave.;
  CURE Insurance Arena, 81 Hamilton Ave.;
  Arm & Hammer Park, 1 Thunder Road.