

Brookfield Social Services

Winter 2024



Happy 2024! We here at Brookfield Human Services want to let you all know that we are happy to assist you. As the cost of everything is going up, one may feel frustrated and disappointed. I would like to encourage you to use the services that are discussed in this newsletter as these programs may be able to assist with easing your frustrations. For more information about these programs, please reach out to Ryan Soto. If you feel like your mental health may be in jeopardy and you need someone to speak with, please reach out to Ben Ferrie.

Respectfully,

Ryan Soto

Human Services Coordinator

Mental Health and Community Support

As the Behavioral Health Liaison for the Town of Brookfield, I look forward to continuing assisting individuals to manage daily challenges and stressors that they are experiencing, as well as helping them to find sustainable solutions. I am dedicated to promoting empowerment and am passionate about furthering the well-being of all people. Do not hesitate to reach out to me if you or someone you care about might benefit from some additional support or resources. Please, feel free to contact me at 203-775-5237 as I am available to meet with anyone who feels they might benefit from this assistance.

Respectfully,

Benjamin Ferrie

Behavioral Health Liaison

Grief Connections with Ben Ferrie

Grief is a normal response to loss that can be overwhelming, painful, and personal. There is no right or wrong way to grieve, and this difficult process allows us to build resilience through our hardships while learning to make sense of our new reality. You are welcome to come share your thoughts, express your feelings, and explore ways to work through these painful experiences with others who are doing the same. Contact Ben Ferrie at 203-775-5237 for information or check our website for updated meeting dates.

Renter's Rebate

The Renter's rebate Program starts on April 1, 2024, and runs through October 30, 2024. If you rented in 2023, were age 65 or older, or were disabled, and your income (including Social Security) was no more than \$38,100 for individuals and \$46,400 for couples, you may be eligible to receive a rebate from the State. For more information about this program and your eligibility, please contact Ryan Soto at 203-775-7312. Must meet a one-year state residency requirement.

Other Local Food Pantries

Walnut Hill Community Pantry: Bethel Campus is located at 156 Walnut Hill Rd, Bethel, CT 06801, host a food pantry each month. Clients coming for food will not be allowed out of their cars and volunteers/staff will simply load the bags into their cars. All are welcome. For more information about our pantry, please contact foodpantry@walnuthillcc.org. *Distribution Dates Bethel Campus: 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. on 2nd & 4th Wednesdays.*

Daily Bread: Located behind Saint James Church in Danbury CT. The pantry's hours are every Tuesday and Friday from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. For seniors or disabled options are there to make appointments. Home deliveries are available as well look go to Daily Bread's website: <https://www.dailybreadfoodpantry.com/>

Comida - ARC's Food Pantry: Comida is open on the second and fourth Friday of each month and is located 24 Delay Street Danbury CT. Numbers are provided between 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Doors are opened at 2:30 p.m. for food distribution.

Community Action of Western Connecticut Food Pantry: Located 78 Triangle St. Danbury CT provides free food once per month to low-income households and individuals who reside within the Greater Danbury area. The Food Pantry is open every Thursday from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and supplies food to clients on an eligibility basis that is determined by income.

The Eligibility Criteria:

- Photo Identification
- Verification of Household Income (last 4 weeks) – Income must be at or below 235% of the FPL
- Social Security Cards for all household members.

FAITH Food Pantry of Newtown, Inc.: Locate at 46 Church Hill Road, Newtown, CT. Distribution hours are Tuesday's from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. and Thursday's from 3:30 – 6:00 p.m.

The New Milford Food Bank: Located at 2 Pickett District Road New Milford CT. The distribution hours are Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or by appointments please call 860-355-6079 or email at socialsevice@newmilford.org.

Connecticut's Discount Prescription Card



Connecticut residents can go online to ArrayRX: <https://arrayrxcard.com/> to sign up for a FREE prescription discount card that can be used at most pharmacies here in Connecticut.

A valid physical Connecticut address and email address are required to enroll. A digital card can be downloaded to your smartphone, or you can request an email of it to show it to the pharmacy. You can sign up each member of your family, including your children. This card can provide up to an 80% discount on certain medications. All FDA-approved drugs are eligible.

CT Energy Assistance Program (CEAP)

The **CT Energy Assistance Program (CEAP)** helps with heating costs no matter what your heating source. You must apply every year to receive the benefits.

Reminder: If you heat with electricity and Eversource has automatically put you back onto the Matching Payment Program (MPP), you still must apply for CEAP and be approved each year or the MPP will go away, and you will owe the total of all the electricity you used.

If you heat with oil, you will have until March of 2024 to apply for CEAP. Electric heat residents have until May of 2024.

To apply, please see the enclosed eligibility guidelines and list of required documents that apply to you then contact Ryan Soto at Human Services for any questions and/or to apply.

Note: There is a change in eligibility for households in which heat is included in the rent. Those who pay one-third or less of their income toward rent and utilities are now eligible for a benefit. If you think you may be eligible and would like to apply, you will need a **current lease showing that heat is included in the rent**, in addition to any other documentation that applies to you.

Those who do not complete their CEAP application or update information with the Human Services Department will be removed from the food pantry list

Food Pantry and Human Services Programs

Our food pantry remains a drive-thru pick-up in which a list of available items are provided to food pantry clients. Other local programs, such as Holiday and Back-to-School are also run through the food pantry. We live in a very generous community, so if we have extra donations, including gift cards, we will distribute them during pantry hours. **They will not be available upon request.**

Please note: We encourage you to continue to use the pantry even if you have sufficient SNAP benefits at this time because you can save money for paying bills or on food for the coming months when resources may not be as plentiful. In addition, the Food Pantry offers non-food items that can be quite expensive and cannot be purchased with SNAP.

Food Pantry Hours

- **Tuesdays from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.**
- **1st and 3rd Thursday from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.**
- **Closed during holidays and when the Town Hall is closed**
- **Closed when Brookfield schools are closed due to inclement weather. In case of a question, please call Social Services at 203-775-7312**



Please DO NOT arrive and line up early - we have enough food for everyone. If you arrive more than 30 minutes before opening time, you will be asked to exit the parking lot and return later. DO NOT wait in the parking lot as it is extremely busy, and cars lined up for long periods of time block traffic and is very dangerous. Thank you for understanding.

Por favor NO llegue ni haga fila temprano. Tenemos suficiente comida para todos. Si llega más de 30 minutos antes de la hora de apertura, se le pedirá que salga del estacionamiento y regrese más tarde. NO espere en el estacionamiento ya que está muy ocupado y los autos alineados durante largos períodos de tiempo bloquean el tráfico y es muy peligroso. Gracias por entender.

Brookfield Social Services

100 Pocono Road
Brookfield, CT 06804

Brookfield Social Services Department

100 Pocono Road Brookfield, CT 06804 Telephone: 203-775-7312

Director of Senior/Social Services:

Ellen Melville emelville@brookfieldct.gov

Social Services Coordinator:

Ryan Soto, rsoto@brookfieldct.gov

Behavioral Health Liaison:

Benjamin Ferrie bferrie@brookfieldct.gov

Senior/Social Services Program Coordinator:

Amy Diezemann adiezemann@brookfieldct.gov

Senior/Social Services Administrator

Kathy Creighton kcreighton@brookfieldct.gov

All Are Welcome Here!



Brookfield Social Services respects the diversity of all. You will find a warm welcome regardless of sex, age, race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, range of abilities, sexual orientation, gender identity, financial means, and political perspective.

FISH Medical Transportation:

Transportation for medical appointments weekdays from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Ambulatory disabled and/or seniors.

Brookfield residents only. **Call 203-616-9678 to submit request at least 3 days prior to pickup**



SweetHART Telephone:

Main Phone: 203-744-4070

Reservations: Press 3

Meals on Wheels:

Home delivered meals for those 60 years of age or older who are homebound.

Main number: 800-994-9422

Elder Justice Hotline:

If you are the victim of scam, or neglected, exploited, or abused, they are here to help.

Main phone: 860-808-5555

CT Pathways: CT's SNAP Employment and Training program

SNAP Employment & Training (E&T) is a work program designed to help SNAP recipients gain skills that will help increase self-sufficiency. If you are receiving SNAP in Connecticut and not receiving money from the Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) program, you may be eligible to participate in SNAP E&T. E&T is a skills-based program that provides short-term vocational programs at community colleges.

Naugatuck Valley Community College

Waterbury/Danbury

203-575-8166

Employment Support is available at Brookfield Social Services!

TBICO, well-known job search and placement center in Danbury, has come to Brookfield and provides one-on-one services to those who wish to learn more about how to obtain and maintain jobs that meet their talents and needs. These days it is not enough to have just any job, because many do not offer enough to pay for monthly bills. Learn the tools on how to find the right job and manage your money. Please contact Ryan Soto at 203-775-7312 or Ben Ferrie at 203-775-5237 to sign up for this great opportunity.

Brookfield Congregational Church Thrift Shop

OPEN for Business! 1st and 3rd Saturdays

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

160 Whisconier Rd; Rte 25

Brookfield, CT 06804



My HomeCT Mortgage Assistance Help for Homeowners!

MyHomeCT is available to eligible CT residents who have mortgage **delinquencies or defaults that occurred because of the Covid-19 pandemic**. The CT Department of Housing is the responsible entity for the program and has designated the CT Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) to administer it on its behalf. Mortgage and non-mortgage grants are awarded to eligible homeowners as either **one-time assistance**, which brings the homeowner's bills current, or as **ongoing assistance** to pay bills going forward (up to 12 months). Non-mortgage assistance includes, but is not limited to non-mortgaged real estate taxes and insurance, condominium or HOA fees, water and sewer liens, HOA or condominium assessments. For more information, please go to <https://www.chfa.org/myhomect/> or call the MyHomeCT call center, **877-894-4111** Mon-Fri from 10am-8pm EST, or the WorkPlace in Bridgeport at **203-610-8580**.

Updates

If your situation has changed in any way, i.e. a move, new job, new telephone number and/or email, family members leaving the home, new ones coming in, or any other change, please call Ryan Soto at Human Services so your file can be updated. This information will be used to determine what assistance you may need and what you qualify for.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

ANNUAL UPDATES AND ENERGY ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS



IF YOU HAVE NOT COMPLETED YOUR CONNECTICUT ENERGY ASSISTANCE APPLICATION (CEAP) OR ANNUAL UPDATE, PLEASE SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT WITH RYAN SOTO AT 203-775-7312

IF YOU CHOOSE NOT TO DO AN UPDATE, WE WILL ASSUME YOU ARE DOING WELL AND WILL REMOVE YOU FROM THE FOOD PANTRY LIST