

# Brookfield Social Services

## Winter 2023



**Happy 2023!** We here at Brookfield Social Services want to let you all know that we have a new Social Services Coordinator and Behavioral Health Liaison. With Lorraine Kelley's retirement, Ryan Soto is the Brookfield's Social Service Coordinator and Ben Ferrie is the Behavioral Health Liaison. Please take the opportunity to reach out to either of them if you need assistance.

### *Support Services*

As the cost of everything going up, one may feel frustrated and disappointed. We would like to encourage you all to use the services that are available to you and have described many of them in this newsletter. These programs may be able to assist with easing your frustration. 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.

### *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 Social Services so your file can be updated. This information will be used to determine what assistance you may need and qualify for and to be able to get that information to you.

### *Rental and Mortgage Assistance*

It has been another very tough year for many renters and homeowners. If you continue to find yourself in arrears with your **rent**, please consider applying to UniteCT for rental and utility assistance at <https://portal.ct.gov/DOH/DOH/Programs/UniteCT>.

If you are having difficulty paying your **mortgage** payments please click on the following link to learn more about, and apply for, the State of Connecticut's Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (EMAP):

<https://www.chfa.org/homeowners/emergency-mortgage-assistance-program/>

or **contact your mortgage finance company** to see if they have any programs for refinancing, forbearance and/or other assistance.



### *Update to SNAP Benefits*

CT SNAP households will receive their last allotment of *extra* COVID benefits in February.

Beginning March 2023, SNAP households will receive the benefit amount they qualify for based on income guidelines. A chart of the income eligibility guidelines, as well as the maximum possible benefit a household *could* be eligible to receive, is included below (this chart and more can be viewed on the [CT DSS SNAP website](#)):

## ***CT Energy Assistance Program (CEAP)***



We are now making appointments for the CT Energy Assistance Program (CEAP), which helps with heating costs no matter what your heating source. You must apply every year to receive benefits. If your income is no more than \$39,761 (individuals) and \$51,996(couples), you may be eligible for assistance with your heating bills. To apply, please see the attached list of documents below. Once you have them ready, please contact Ryan at 203-775-7312.

**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.

**To apply,** please see the enclosed eligibility guidelines and list of required documentation and gather the documents that apply to you. Then contact Ryan Soto at Social 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.

### ***Required Documentation for CEAP***

- The last 4 weeks of pay-stubs (i.e. 2 if paid bi-weekly, 4 if paid weekly, etc.), if employed
- Current bank statement showing Social Security payments, pension payments, child support payments, or any other payments that you may receive
- Child support documentation (if you receive child support and it is not deposited in a bank statement)
- Electric bill (whether or not you heat with electricity)
- If unemployed, please provide the “unemployment payment history” found on the DOL portal under “File a Claim Inquiry” – then “Payment History”
- If it is your first time applying, be ready to provide names, dates of birth and Social Security numbers for each person living in your home.

### ***Difficulty Paying Electric bills?***

Eversource offers programs that can help: Visit [www.Eversource.com/BillHelp](http://www.Eversource.com/BillHelp) or call 1-800-286-2828. Also, if you heat with electricity, don't forget to apply for CEAP, which will allow you to participate in the Matching Payment Program and Winter Protection.



## ***United Way Programs – ALICE (Asset-Limited Income-Constrained Employed)***

**ALICE Enrichment Fund:** The ALICE program is for children ages preschool through grade 12. This program offers up to \$300 per child annually for before/after school or weekend extra-curricular enrichment activities. ALICE funding has offered on a first come/first served basis. Below are examples of a few activities that ALICE has funded:

- Parks & Recreation programs, YMCA swimming lessons
- Math, English, Science tutoring
- Music lessons, art lessons
- Sports enrichment such as soccer, football, gymnastics, horseback riding

Before you sign up for any program, please contact **Amy Diezemann** at 203-775-5308 or [adiezemann@brookfieldct.gov](mailto:adiezemann@brookfieldct.gov) to see if there is funding available.

**ALICE Saves.** If you save \$20 per month in a 6-month period, you will get an extra \$60! It makes cents ☺ to save and use this great program. To get started, go to: <https://alice.ctunitedway.org/partneralicesaves/>

**Healthy Savings Program** provides a monthly cash allotment through a cash card for fruits and vegetables at participating stores and offers other cost-saving coupons. To get started, go to: <https://www.uwwesternct.org/healthysavings>

**Prosperi-key** is a digital marketplace created by United Way to help with finding and accessing programs for asset-limited, low-income employed families and Individuals. Prosperi-key can also link you to many other services, such as VITA Tax Assistance program and prescription discount cards. You will need to create an account with Prosperi-key to see what programs may be available to you. To learn more and/or to register, go to [www.Prosperikey.org](http://www.Prosperikey.org)



### ***Brookfield Congregational Church Thrift Shop***

**OPEN for Business! 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays**

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
160 Whisconier Rd; Rt. 25

*Vouchers Available Through Social Services*



## ***Food Pantry and Social Services Programs***

Our food pantry remains a drive-thru pick up. Clients are provided a list of available items to choose from. Also, we live in a very generous community, so when we have extra donations (i.e. gift cards), we may 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 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**
- **1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday from 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**
- **Closed during holidays and when the Town Hall is closed**



**The Danbury Food Collaborative** has recently updated their food guide to include SNAP and WIC information. The food guide is a comprehensive listing of pantries, congregate meal sites, etc. The Danbury Food Collaborative is supported by the United Way of Western CT.

<https://www.uwwesternct.org/danburyfoodcollaborative>

## ***Candlewood Fishing Camp***

Candlewood Fishing Camp is an opportunity for young anglers and outdoor enthusiasts ages 9 to 16 years of age to camp on 100 wooded acres of Candlewood Lake waterfront. Activities include: swimming, canoeing adventures to several islands, kayaking, and bass fishing! Other activities include arts and crafts, field games, hiking, gaga ball, and more! For more information, please contact Jed Wilson at 203-570-7952 or e-mail: [info@candlewoodfishingcamp.com](mailto:info@candlewoodfishingcamp.com)



## ***TBICO: Job Search and Placement Assistance***

TBICO is a local agency that promotes personal and economic self-sufficiency through education, job training, and financial literacy. TBICO is a resource center for individuals and their families seeking to achieve sustainable self-sufficiency through employment, literacy, and stable housing. This organization works with individuals to improve communication skills and develop effective strategies to overcome challenging obstacles. For more information, please call 203-743-6695 or Email: [info@tbicoworks.org](mailto:info@tbicoworks.org)



## ***Brookfield CHORES Program***

***"To Help Seniors and Disabled Residents Remain Safely and Independently in Their Homes."***

The mission of Brookfield CHORES Program is to help senior residents of Brookfield with light chores so that they can remain living independently and with dignity, at home. *Each case will be assessed individually, although these are some of the services we can provide:* light landscaping, spring cleaning, trash removal, window washing, decluttering, moving furniture, switch out screen/storm windows, change lightbulbs, or some minor house repairs. The Brookfield CHORES program is made possible by volunteers from the Brookfield Knights of Columbus and the Brookfield Commission on Aging. If you think we might be able to help, give Benjamin Ferrie a call at 203-775-5237 for more information.



## ***All About Dads...***

**Families Network of Western CT, Inc  
Fatherhood Initiative  
5 Library Place Danbury, CT  
203-791-8773**



## ***Nurturing Father's Program***

A men's program designed to help fathers let go of fathering practices that don't work, adopt new practices that increase self-concept, and work toward more nurturing and rewarding relationships with children and partners. Register today by calling 203-791-8773.

## ***All Pro Dads***

All Pro Dad's is a monthly gathering of fathers and their children with the purpose of growing closer to one another while enjoying dinner and participating in meaningful activities. This event is open to fathers of children grades K-5.

Our next event is in New Milford on Monday, February 13 from 6-7 p.m. For more information contact Brian Hembrook at [bhembrook@newmilford.org](mailto:bhembrook@newmilford.org)

***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](mailto:emelville@brookfieldct.gov)

*Social Services Coordinator:*

Ryan Soto [rsoto@brookfieldct.gov](mailto:rsoto@brookfieldct.gov)

*Behavioral Health Liaison:*

Ben Ferrie [bferrie@brookfieldct.gov](mailto:bferrie@brookfieldct.gov)

*Senior/Social Services Program Coordinator:*

Amy Diezemann [adiezemann@brookfieldct.gov](mailto:adiezemann@brookfieldct.gov)

*Senior/Social Services Administrator*

Kathy Creighton [kcreighton@brookfieldct.gov](mailto: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 appointment.



***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**



# *Are You Struggling And In Need of Support?*



**HELP IS WITHIN REACH!**

## *Services We Provide:*

- **Support Sessions**
- **Community Outreach**
- **Wellness Checks**
- **Access to Services and Programming**
- **Self-Care and Mindfulness Education**



## **For more Information Contact:**

Benjamin Ferrie  
Behavioral Health Liaison

P: 203-775-5237

C: 203-313-0352

Email: [bferrie@brookfieldct.gov](mailto:bferrie@brookfieldct.gov)

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Brookfield Department of Social  
Services

100 Pocono Rd.

Brookfield CT, 06804

