

Resources in Response to COVID-19 (IL and several MO)

- [Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker issued a “stay at home” order for the entire state starting Saturday \(March 21\) at 5 p.m. through April 7](#)
- [What to know about Trump's new \\$2 trillion economic package](#) and the **check or direct deposit you can expect**
- [Treasury Department extends tax filing day from April 15 to July 15](#)
- **For WEST SIDE and surrounding residents:** [West Side Mutual Aid Request Form](#)
- **29th Ward:** Complete form to let them know how they can help or if you can be of assistance: <https://bit.ly/3aiHICZ>
- **Coronavirus can survive on common materials for hours or even days.** [Here's what you need to know and how to protect yourself.](#) And are [CDC cleaning and disinfecting tips for your household.](#)
- [Cook County launches a text message alert system and phone hotline in response to Coronavirus crisis](#)
- [COVID-19 Aid Resources](#)
- [Blue Cross Blue Shield - What is Coronavirus and what does it mean?](#) (English)
- [Blue Cross Blue Shield - What is Coronavirus and what does it mean?](#) (Español)
- [Community Alert from the 15th District Chicago Police Department](#) - **includes list of Austin area food pantries.** [Click here for the Spanish version.](#)
- [CDC's Preventative Guidelines & Resources](#)
- [CDC's Print Resources in multiple languages \(Fact Sheets, etc\)](#)
- [IL Key Resource printable fact sheet](#)
- [Chicago Department of Public Health](#)
- [Illinois Department of Public Health](#)
- [COVID 19 and Unemployment Benefits](#) Questions? Call 1800-244-5631 or visit <https://www2.illinois.gov/ides>
- [City of Chicago Family Support Services](#)
- [City of Chicago COVID-19 Response Center](#)
- [Details on work requirements for SNAP and other public benefits](#)
- [Illinois Application for Benefits Eligibility:](#) Use this site to apply for and manage healthcare, food, and cash assistance benefits
- [Office of Health Promotion Information and Resources for Special Populations – COVID-19](#)
- [MAP: Here's where you can get a COVID-19 test in Chicago area](#)
- [Missouri Benefits](#)
- [St. Louis COVID-19 Response Center](#)
- [Missouri Department of Health](#)
- [St. Louis Community Foundation](#)

Chicago Hardship Request Resources

- **The Chicago COVID-19 Hardship and Help page** created by Chicago organizers Kelly Hayes and Delia Galindo offers a simple way for people in the Chicago area to ask others for assistance during this crisis. Whether you are a parent whose income has dried up, a struggling freelancer, or enduring any other financial strife during this crisis, please feel free to share your story and ask for whatever financial help you need. To post a request, you can fill out [this form](#). We know not everyone will get the help they ask for, but we want people to have the opportunity to ask, and also the opportunity to help.

If you are financially secure and want to help someone whose livelihood has been impacted by this crisis, [please pick a hardship to address](#) and donate. Details at <https://transformativespaces.org/2020/03/15/chicago-covid-19-hardship-and-help-page/>

Free food for ALL- CPS and Food Pantries

In this challenging time, the Noble Network of Charter Schools has joined Chicago Public Schools to provide food for ANY family who would like it. You do not have to be a Noble student or family to come to any of their campuses.

All Chicago Public Schools will offer free meals for students during the nearly two-week school closure due to the coronavirus outbreak. Families will be able to pick up meals outside of their nearest school, and won't be required to pick up meals at their school of attendance. Any student, regardless of whether they attend a CPS school, will be able to have access to meals.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Beyond Hunger in Oak Park remains open and committed to providing foods and services that nourish and sustain, through a dignified experience. The food pantry prioritizes fresh produce, protein products, and a variety of grocery items. They recently partnered with Chicago Police Department's 15th precinct and Oak Park Township to make quick over-arching changes to their processes to **TRIPLE home deliveries immediately**. Details at gobeyondhunger.org/need-help.

St. Martin de Porres has a Food Pantry at 5112 W. Washington Blvd. in Chicago open Wednesday and Thursday 10:00am -12:00pm. Contact: Leon Williams at 773-287-0206.

Lakeview Food Pantry is also available and open to residents of the North or Westside. For their requirements, [click here](#).

Other resources for Food:

- [Food Pantries in St. Louis](#)
- [Click here for a list of other local food pantries. Click here to find a Chicago Food Depository site near you.](#)
- Flyer (English and Spanish versions): [Details on SNAP and the Greater Chicago Food Depository can help you get food.](#)
- Flyer: [The Families First Coronavirus Response Act and its Anti-Hunger and Nutrition Provisions](#)
- Flyer (English and Spanish versions): [Do you need food or health insurance? The Greater Chicago Food Depository can help.](#)

Comcast Response to COVID-19

For millions of low-income Americans who don't have Internet service at home, this uncertain time is going to be even more difficult to manage. As schools and businesses close and families are encouraged, or even mandated, to stay home, Internet connectivity becomes even more important.

That's why Comcast has put in place two substantial program enhancements to help these families deal with this crisis.

1. They will make it even easier for low-income families who live in a Comcast service area to sign up by offering new customers 60 days of complimentary Internet Essentials service, which is normally available to all qualified low-income households for \$9.95/month.
2. Also, they are increasing Internet speeds for the Internet Essentials service from 15/2 Mbps to 25/3 Mbps for all new and existing customers, which will be the speed of the service going forward. In this way, they will ensure that Internet Essentials customers will be able to use their Internet service for all their increased needs as a result of this health crisis.

They want to make it as fast and simple as possible to access this service:

- To receive the increased Internet speeds, existing customers will not need to do anything. The new speeds will be rolled out nationally over the next few days.
- They'll send all new customers a free self-install kit that includes a cable modem with a Wi-Fi router. There will be no term contract or credit check and no shipping fee.
- To sign up, applicants can simply visit www.internetessentials.com. The accessible website also includes the option to video chat with customer service agents in American Sign Language. There are also two dedicated phone numbers 1-855-846-8376 for English and 1-855-765-6995 for Spanish.

FREE Internet Access/School Resources during Schools

Closures

If you or your family cannot afford internet access, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has posted free internet access opportunities to support school learning during the closures from AT&T, Spectrum, and Comcast at www.isbe.net/keeplearning under "free internet access resources."

For questions, contact the CPS Command Center at 773.553.KIDS (5437) or email familyservices@cps.edu.

Mayor Lightfoot Announces Remote Learning Opportunities for Students at Chicago Public Schools and City Colleges of Chicago

On March 30, [Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot joined Chicago Public Schools and City Colleges of Chicago to announce both institutions have established remote learning plans to ensure instructional time continues while school buildings and campuses are closed](#). Both CPS and CCC have created continuous learning opportunities that help students stay engaged and connected despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In alignment with new guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) that will require school districts to convert future days of suspended in-person instruction to "remote learning days," Chicago Public Schools (CPS) released district-wide guidance that outlines expectations, strategies, and available resources for schools to implement remote learning beginning on April 13. The guidance provides flexibility for schools to design remote learning plans that best support the unique needs of their school communities. Parents, guardians and educators are receiving the remote learning guidance March 30, and families will hear directly from their schools by April 6.

Gas and Electric Utilities Mandate

Illinois gas and electric utilities are mandated to stop disconnections until May 1, 2020, or until Gov. Pritzker announces the end of the state of emergency if it goes beyond May 1, 2020. Additionally, utilities must suspend late fees, and adopt flexible credit and collections practices for when the emergency is over.

Lastly, alternative suppliers of gas and electricity are also mandated to stop door-to-door marketing.

If anyone experiences disconnection notices or visits from alternative suppliers, Attorney General Raoul would like to know about it via this form:

<https://ccforms submission.ilattorneygeneral.net/>

ComEd:

They have voluntarily suspended service disconnections for customers who cannot pay, and waived new late payment charges, through at least May 1, 2020. They understand that many of their customers may experience a financial strain due to the slowdown in the economy related to the pandemic. The last thing they want their customers and communities to worry about at this stage is whether they will be without power. For more information and updates on ComEd's pandemic preparedness and response, as well as related customer service options, please visit ComEd.com/Coronavirus.

Energy-Saving Opportunities:

ComEd and Peoples Gas, in partnership with the [Chicago Bungalow Association](#), provide customers with free home energy upgrades with CBA's [Energy Savers](#). The free weatherization services and installation of free energy-saving products helps increase comfort, lower utility bills, add value and extend the life of your home.

The Energy Savers process:

1. Apply [HERE](#)
2. Home Assessment
3. Weatherization Work
4. Comfort + Savings

Good Neighbors Response

Westside Health Authority will be closed to the public for the duration of the call to shelter-in-place. However, their Good Neighbor Response Team will still mobilize and respond to those in need when called at 773-951-6737.

Chicago Eases Up on Ticketing and Debt Collections

Effective through at least April 30 in the City of Chicago:

- City sticker, license registration, and other compliance ticketing is suspended
- Parking tickets will focus on safety-related issues (blocking fire hydrant, double parking, overstay near a hospital)
- Tickets will not double
- Unpaid payment plans will not go into default
- Debts will not be referred to collections
- Booting is suspended, and the City is removing all boots
- Towing and Impounding for debt collection is suspended. Safety related towing will continue.
- Ride-hail drivers (such as Uber and Lyft) will not be deactivated or banned for ticket debts
- No new license suspension requests for red light or speed camera tickets (unlike parking ticket suspensions, these suspensions were not eliminated by the License to Work Act)

Read more from the [Mayor's press release](#).