

Resources for families

Last updated: 3/19/2020

Utility Resources:

AEP:

AEP is temporarily suspending all disconnections for non-payment as the coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to spread in our communities. We know our customers are concerned about their families and ensuring they have reliable electric service allows them to focus on staying healthy and well. AEP is committed to doing what we can to help our customers, our employees, and the communities we serve navigate this uncertain time.

Nipsco:

NIPSCO today announced that it will voluntarily suspend shutoffs for nonpayment in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, effectively immediately. This suspension will apply to residential, commercial and industrial customers and will remain in effect until further notice. In addition, NIPSCO will offer its most flexible payment plans to customers who indicate either an impact or hardship as a result of COVID-19 and will suspend late payment charges until May 1. NIPSCO will continue to monitor current events and support our customers and communities.

“The safety of our employees and customers is at the forefront of everything we do at NIPSCO,” said NIPSCO President Violet Sistovaris. “We are taking a proactive, coordinated approach to prevent, mitigate and respond to COVID-19.”

Any customer who has received a termination notice or is having trouble paying his/her bill should call [1-800-4NIPSCO](tel:1-800-4NIPSCO) to discuss payment arrangements and/or financial assistance programs. In addition to the shutoff moratorium, NIPSCO is doing the following in response to the pandemic:

- Our employees are taking all appropriate precautions to keep themselves and our customers safe.
- NIPSCO has activated its incident management team and is closely monitoring the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization, and local state and federal health agencies for updates related to the virus.
- To help reduce the spread of COVID-19, until further notice, employees whose positions allow it are working remotely.
- For those critical employees who must report in person to complete their work, additional precautions are being taken to minimize the spread.
- We will continue to ensure that our system is safe and, if an outbreak would occur in our service territories, have plans in place to suspend all non-emergency work if necessary.

Fort Wayne City Utilities:

Walk-in Visits Stopped to Protect Customers and Service Reps

- City Utilities has suspended non-payment disconnects for non-payment until April 15th
- Customers are urged to do their best to continue paying their bills.
- Flexible payment plans are always available with City Utilities and will continue to be as we understand the financial hardship this outbreak has placed on many families. Please call City Utilities Customer Support at 260.427.1234 to discuss extended payment plans. *Communicating with customer representatives:* City Utilities' customer service representatives can handle all questions, including payment arrangements, by phone. The team can answer questions in English, Spanish and Burmese. Customers can call [260-427-1234](tel:260-427-1234) for service, Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m until 5:30 p.m.

Duke Energy: Since many customers may be facing unusual financial hardships as a result of COVID-19, we are suspending disconnections for nonpayment effective March 13, 2020. This applies to all home and business accounts in Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio and South Carolina. Have questions about you Duke Energy Bill: contact 1-800-521-2232

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Food Resources:

Fort Wayne Community Schools

FWCS will provide free breakfast and lunch for children at ALL elementary schools **starting Tuesday, March 17**. Meals are available by walk-up/drive-up for all kids, regardless of the school they attend, ages birth through high school from **10:30 a.m - 1:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Children MUST be present.**

East Allen County Schools:

East Allen County Schools will continue to provide meals, breakfast and lunch, to all of our EACS students and anyone in the EACS community who is 18 years of age and under during the closure period.

Both breakfast and lunch meals (cold packs) can be picked up at these 3 designated sites. The designated sites are listed below:

- **Heritage K-12 (Door #8)**
- **Southwick Elementary (Door #6)**
- **New Haven Intermediate (Door #8)**

All 3 sites will be available for meal pick-up every Tuesday on the dates below:

- **March 17th**
- **March 24th**
- **March 31st**
- **April 7th**

Pick up times for each site are as follows:

- **11:00am-1:00pm & 4:00pm-6:00pm**

Each child will receive two bags. The first bag will have a five-day allotment of breakfast and the second bag will have a five-day allotment of lunch items. To limit interaction and proximity to other participants and therefore decrease the risk of COVID-19 exposure, food service staff will deliver these items to your vehicle upon arrival. Please be prepared to provide your child's name upon meal pick-up. Please remember some of the meals you will receive, contain items that must be refrigerated within 2 hours of receiving them. Leaving food out too long at room temperature can cause bacteria to grow and therefore will be unsafe to consume.

Southwest Allen County Students

Meal pick-up directions for SACS Families **on eLearning Days**

Monday - Friday, 11 am - 1 pm and 4 pm - 6 pm

Homestead High School Door 10A Drive-up Service

During E-Learning, due to COVID-19, lunches will be provided and available for pick-up to all Southwest Allen County schools students at Homestead High School from 11 am to 1 pm and 4pm to 6pm, Monday through Friday on e-Learning Days. Meals will be handed out by SACS Food Service staff at door 10-A, located on the east side of Homestead High School. **Food Service Staff will be ready to deliver a meal for each SACS student. This is a drive-up service and families will not leave their cars. Drivers will be asked to provide the student's name and ID number, along with which school they attend.** We are asking that drivers enter the Homestead campus on Aboite Center Rd, near the 9th grade Academy, and follow the driveway off to the right and around the West side of the 9th grade academy. When you reach the stop sign, turn left and drive to the end of that lot. As you reach the end, circle to the right and door 10a will be the loading dock on your left hand side. After receiving your meal(s), you will be asked to exit the Homestead campus at the stoplight on Homestead Rd, near the baseball field.

NACS Meal Info

Northwest Allen County Schools is pleased to offer both breakfast and lunch meals starting Wednesday, March 18. Meals will be available for pick-up: Mondays-Fridays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Hometown Elementary School at 15330 Lima Rd., and Carroll High School, 3701 Carroll Rd. To Secure Meals: Call either of these two numbers between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. to reserve meals for the next day, entire week or entire duration. (If more than one child, please give the names for all) OR email NACSmeals@nacs.k12.in.us with all of point #2 information answered.

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Trinity English:

We are assisting those in need on Tuesdays at 1:30pm and on Thursdays at 10am. We are trying to navigate this current, unusual situation. While we have had to pause our normal Assistance Hours routine, we still wanted to help (to the extent we can, with limited resources) families who need to put food on their tables. With a generous emergency grant from the [AWS Foundation](#) and with our partnership with [Community Harvest Food Bank - Fort Wayne](#), we are able to stretch further and help feed families who are suffering in many ways through this public health emergency. You are not alone. trinityenglish.org

Lucille's BBQ – Fort Wayne

Every kid will receive a free sack lunch
Monday- Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m

Salvation Army Miami County, Indiana:

We are now asking that you call first for food pantry. The door will be locked so call for assistance, this way we can have your food packaged and ready for pick up. Hours are still Monday - Thursday, 8:30 - 11:30. These precautions are for your safety and our volunteers. Phone number is 765-473-5498. We appreciate your cooperation during this crisis time.

Fort Wayne Parks & Rec

Locations: Cooper Community Center, Jennings Recreation Center, McMillen Park Community Center, Weisser Park Youth Center.
Free to go dinner for k-12 students from 4pm-5pm You may drive up, or walk up outside of the building. There will be no building entry or outdoor setting available.

Warsaw Community Schools:

WCS will follow a similar process as the summer program. Tables will be set up outside in the school parking lot with a 'grab and go' system at each of the 7 locations. This program is open to students in our community. WCS Food Services will offer 100 meal packages each day at each of the 7 school locations offering a free breakfast and a free lunch between 11 am to 12 noon. WCS students will receive breakfast and lunch, along with 2 milks to take home. The lunch will be for that afternoon and the breakfast will be for the following morning.

The 7 locations are: Lakeview, Claypool, Gateway, Lincoln, Leesburg, Jefferson, and Harrison. The person collecting meals simply needs to provide the first and last name of one child with the total number of children in the household. This service will begin on Monday, March 16th through April 3rd. Parents, with a question about a child with a special diet need, please call WCS Food Services at 574.371.5086 ext. 5

Special Circumstance: Yes, we are making delivery if people do not have transportation. Delivery is made by WCS Transportation and Food Service staff only after the meals are served at the schools or by a member of the Food Service staff from the central preparation site at WCHS.

Parents need to call 574-371-5086 ext 2403 or email mfranks@warsawschools.org before 10:30 in the morning in order to ensure enough meals are available for everyone. Meals can be requested for the entire week or one day. Parents MUST be home when the meals arrive between 11:00 am and 1:00 PM.

Boomerang Backpacks: WCS will continue to meet the needs of families currently served through the Boomerang Backpack Program. WCS bus drivers will deliver Boomerang Backpacks to homes on Fridays (March 20, March 27, and April 3).

Peru Community Schools:

Peru Community Schools will be serving free Lunch and Dinner to Go, for all Peru Community Children/Students, from March 16th - April 3rd. Location: Front Driveway of Peru High School (Drive-Thru Pickup).
Monday – Friday Lunch: 11:30 am - 12:30 pm Dinner: 3:30 pm - 4:40 pm

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Rescue Mission Fort Wayne:

The Rescue Mission is doing sack lunch and dinners for folks at 12pm and 5pm as an option.

Area Five – Rochester Indiana

ANNOUNCEMENT!

AREA FIVE MEAL SITES
starting Tuesday, March 17th through April 3rd

- Logan Senior Center → CARRY OUT MEALS ONLY
- Cass County Council on Aging → CARRY OUT MEALS ONLY
- Rochester Senior Center → CLOSED
- Akron → CLOSED
- Friendship Haven → OPEN
- Kokomo Senior Center → CARRY OUT MEALS ONLY
- Mexico → CARRY OUT MEALS ONLY
- Miami Senior Center → CARRY OUT MEALS ONLY
- Encore Senior Center → CARRY OUT MEALS ONLY
- Wabash Senior Center → CARRY OUT MEALS ONLY
- Warvel Park → CARRY OUT MEALS ONLY

Restaurant Offerings (still open):

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/16MUeFw64QO6ClnWG2k_rm_mZ-JyRoH9eLq2m0zaUZyY/edit?usp=sharing

Wellsprings Wheels (WOW):



Every Thursday 9-11am

1st Thursday- Neighborhood Health Clinic		
1717 S. Calhoun St.		
April 2 nd	July 2 nd	October 1 st
May 7 th	August 6 th	November 5 th
June 4 th	September 3 rd	December 3 rd
2nd Thursday- Pontiac Library		
2215 S. Hanna St.		
April 9 th	July 9 th	October 8 th
May 14 th	August 13 th	November 12 th
June 11 th	September 10 th	December 10 th
3rd Thursday- Indiana Tech Parking Lot 6		
1600 E. Washington Blvd.		
March 19 th	July 16 th	October 15 th
April 16 th	August 20 th	November 19 th
May 21 st	September 17 th	December 17 th
June 18 th		
Last Thursday- Autumn Woods Apt.		
2021 Carterton Dr.		
March 26 th	July 30 th	October 29 th
April 30 th	August 27 th	November 19 th
May 28 th	September 24 th	December 17 th
June 25 th		

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Community Harvest Food Bank:

This week only, the Farm Wagon held at Ashley Church of God (Living Hope Church) will be cancelled. As of right now, the Farm Wagon for next week will run as scheduled.

Beginning Saturday, March 21, we will be closing Community Cupboard **on Saturdays only** in order to handle the traffic load for our regular Saturday Helping Hands distribution. If you have clients with vouchers, they can still come as needed during our regular weekly hours.

In addition, if you have clients that need additional assistance, they are more than welcome to come to our Saturday Helping Hands. Beginning this Saturday, it will be moving to a Drive-Through format with pre-packed bags. No ID is required. It will be in operation from 9-11am, and as long as the clients arrive before 11, they will be served. The Hope for Heroes program will also be limited to 50 lbs per visit, instead of 100 lbs. Veterans and military families that visit will be able to visit an additional month to receive their 600 total pounds, but will be limited to 50 lbs at a time, as with all other vouchers. If you are in contact with Veterans or military families in need, they do not need a referral. They can visit us directly during business hours with their Photo ID + DD214 or Veteran ID.

Farm Wagon Schedule: <https://www.communityharvest.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/FARM-WAGON-SCHEDULE.pdf>

Farm Wagon guidelines: Please arrive ten to fifteen minutes early and bring the following:

1. A bag or box to carry your food distribution
2. You do not need to show identification, but for our records, we do ask for zip code and family size

Families are eligible to receive food from Farm Wagon mobile pantries that visit their county of residence. We currently service all nine counties of our northeast Indiana region, including Adams, Allen, DeKalb, Huntington, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, Wells, and Whitley.

Unemployment:



If you are a food & beverage industry worker (**restaurant, bar, etc.**) who has been laid off due to the impact of the current Covid-19 situation and need information on filing for unemployment benefits, contact the Department of Workforce Development at 1-800-891-6499 or use this link for information and to file from home: <https://www.in.gov/dwd/2362.htm>

For further resources and websites visit:
https://www.in.gov/dwd/files/Claimant_Handbook.pdf
<https://www.in.gov/dwd/3468.htm>



The WorkOne System is an equal opportunity program and does not discriminate in the programs and services offered. Auxiliary aides and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. The TDD/TTY number is 1-800-743-3333; Relay Indiana is 711.

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Mental Health:




BOWEN
C E N T E R

Bowen Center is proud to partner with Warsaw Community Schools with its Student Assistance Program (SAP). Every student is eligible for 2 free sessions.

To schedule an appointment, call (574) 267-7169 ext. 3200.

Your local office is located at 850 N. Harrison Street Warsaw, In 46580

 **Warsaw Community Schools**
FAQ # 9. What if my child has anxiety over this current issue?

WCS posted a resource at warsawschools.org. Link below.
How to Talk to Children about COVID-19
<https://www.warsawschools.org/component/k2/how-to-talk-to-children-about-covid-19>

BOWEN CENTER: WCS Student Assistant Program (SAP) offers every student 2 free sessions. To schedule an appointment, call (574) 267-7169 ext. 3200

Trinity English:

Trinity English Lutheran Church has created a remote yoga class that you can join via ZOOM every Wednesday at 5:30,. Join Zoom Meeting URL: <https://zoom.us/j/622506277>

Insight Meditation Fort Wayne:

has helpful tips on creating a living space that promotes wellness:
<https://www.facebook.com/InsightFortWayne/>

Transportation:

CTN has expanded our medical transportation program, stopping nearly all other transportation programs. We're working with local healthcare providers and resources as well as Medicaid to add more riders. If you all know anyone that needs a ride to the Dr., pain management ctr, wound clinic, etc – all appointments that you can't really afford to miss – let us know! Riders should call 260-420-3280 to schedule their trip. We run 7am – 6pm M-F with limited trips on Saturday. We are cleaning/sanitizing vehicles after each client disembarks.

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Internet:

Comcast: Internet Essentials:

As our country continues to manage the COVID-19 emergency, Comcast is taking immediate steps to help connect low-income families to the Internet at home. New Internet Essentials customers will receive two free months of Internet service, which is available to all qualified low-income households for \$9.95/month plus tax. Apply by April 30, 2020. Additionally, for all new and existing Internet Essentials customers, the speed of the program's Internet service has increased to 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream. That increase will go into effect automatically for no additional fee and it will become the new base speed for the program going forward. English: 1-855-846-8376 Spanish: 1-855-765-6995

Mental Health America <https://mhanational.org/covid19>

is doing the following- all virtual so these could be added to the mental health section
Here's some MHANI-specific additions they can include:

Parent Cafe

Parent Cafes are fun, free, supportive, educational, parent-led get-togethers where parents can talk openly with one another about the struggles of parenting and ways to strengthen their families. Meetings are now being held virtually using Zoom, a free web conferencing software. You can view the current schedule of meetings on the [Parent Cafe page](#) of our website.

Parent Support Facebook Group

Parents are invited to join our Facebook group, [Strong Parent Lounge](#), to receive support and resources from other parents.

Anxiety and Depression Support Group

In this uncertain time, Mental Health America of Northeast Indiana is offering a virtual support group. Open to any interested participants. No diagnosis needed to attend. The group will meet on Mondays at 10:30-12PM on Zoom. Please sign-up weekly for each meeting. We are looking forward to meeting you and supporting each other! You can register for Monday, March 23 on <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/monday-morning-depression-anxiety-support-group-tickets-100167230884>

Wellness Recovery Action Plan Courses

Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) recovery courses are being conducted virtually using web conferencing software called Zoom, which you can access for free. WRAP courses teach you how to apply the Five Key Concepts of Recovery to your everyday life to improve your quality of life. Participants identify tools and action plans to counter the negative effects of life challenges. If you are interested in attending one of our newly-added courses, you can find them all on our [Eventbrite page](#).

MHA is also compiling mental health resources and parents/kids focused stuff on our website at <https://mhanortheastindiana.org/coronavirus>

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Housing:

Indiana Foreclosure Prevention Network

This is your Home. Hardest Hit Fund

Are you currently struggling to pay your mortgage because of:

- an involuntary loss of or substantial reduction in employment income;
- a substantial reduction in household income due to death of a contributing household member;
- significant expenses related to non-elective medical procedures or emergencies;
- significant reduction in income due to military service?

Are you back to work following a period of unemployment, and struggling to catch up on missed mortgage payments?

Who's Eligible?

The applicant must:

- Be an Indiana homeowner residing in that home as their primary residence
- Have experienced a qualifying involuntary loss of or reduction in employment or household income on or after January 1, 2009
- Be within the income eligibility requirements based on county of residence (requirements can be found online at www.877GetHope.org)

Additional eligibility requirements are available at www.877GetHope.org.

If so, you may be able to receive mortgage payment assistance through Indiana's Hardest Hit Fund. For more information on the Hardest Hit Fund, please visit www.877GetHope.org, or call 1-877-GET-HOPE (877-438-4673). Applicant and property must meet all requirements; additional underwriting criteria may apply.

Indiana Foreclosure Prevention Network
30 S. Meridian Street, Ste. 1000
Indianapolis IN 46204
www.877GetHope.org
1-877-GET-HOPE (877-438-4673)