Financial, Food & Housing Insecurities Resources
(Chicago-based & Nationwide)

Updated 03/24/2020

SAIC Student Financial Services

For details regarding other financial aid resources or the Butler loan, please contact the Student Financial Services office at 312.629.6600, or visit our website at saic.edu/sfs.

Financial Resources within the Chicagoland area

- **The Salvation Army** offers assistance with rent/mortgage, utilities, medication, food, clothing, or transportation. The SA can offer long-term support to affected families/individuals as needed, including assistance with rent, utility payments due to unemployment. Chicagoland, Northern Illinois, or Northwest Indiana can request assistance through this [online referral form](#).
- **AllChicago.org**'s emergency financial assistance program gives critical support to people experiencing or at risk of, homelessness or another critical emergency. Through their emergency funds, AllChicago assists with rent, utilities, or transportation payments. To request financial assistance, AllChicago’s Call Center can be reached Monday through Thursday, 8:30am to 4:30pm by dialing (312) 744-5000.
- **Chicago Artists Relief Fund**, sustained through [GoFundMe](#), helps artists stay financially stable. Artists can apply, and specify their needs for rent, child care, groceries, or utilities. Priority is given to artists who are Black, Indigenous, People of Color, Queer, Trans+, Non-binary, and Disabled. (Application is periodically open and closed).

Nationwide Financial Assistance Programs

- **The Salvation Army** services extend nationwide, and provides financial assistance to avoid homelessness. Their financial support covers rent, mortgage, and utilities bills.
Food Assistance Resources within the Chicagoland Area

Curbside or Home Delivery

- **Brave Space Alliance** is offering food pantry deliveries to families facing financial insecurities, with care given especially for immunocompromised individuals, people with disabilities, quarantined without pay, elderly, undocumented, and BIPOC individuals and families. Fill out this form to request support.

- **The Salvation Army’s** 19 Chicagoland food pantries remain open to provide curbside service and will continue to serve as a resource for anyone who needs assistance. In addition, the Salvation Army is prepared to serve individuals who are in shelters or quarantine/isolation, as well as first responders. For more information on emergency assistance, call (773) 725-1100 or visit salarmychicago.org/coronavirus.

- **Cook County Sheriff** - Offers info on emergency food pantries

- **A Safe Haven Foundation** Offers Food Donation drop offs to the North Lawndale Community Center weekly, on Wednesdays from 8:30m to 1:30pm.

Pick-up

- **Greater Chicago Food Depository**
  Operates over 700 sites with partners and programs across Chicago, most of which remain open. Their distribution has changed to promote safer physical distancing, including change in hours, and prepackaged groceries. Consult the directory for sites near you, and call before going.
  - The Food Depository’s benefits outreach team can also help you apply for SNAP and Medicaid and make referrals for other public benefits. You can call their hotline at (773) 843-5416 for a free confidential interview Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

- **Lakeview Pantry** A food distribution center that will provide pre-assembled packaged boxes. They also offer an Online Market which allows people to select and order essential items through mobile device or computer.

- **The Archdiocese of Chicago** offers 120 sites to support residents, which includes schools open for drive-by meal pick up Monday-Friday. Catholic Charities will continue to serve residents at their Food Pantries and Evening Meal Programs. To access other services please call 312-655-7700.
Additional Chicago Food Pantries

1. **South Loop Community Church (South Loop)**
   
   1347 S. State St. Chicago
   
   312.692.9448

2. **LCFS: Chicago Uptown Ministries (Uptown)**
   
   4720 N. Sheridan Rd. Chicago
   
   773.271.3760

3. **St. Procopius Church (Pilsen)**
   
   1641 S. Allport St. Chicago
   
   312.226.7887 ext: 8

4. **New Morning Star MBC Pantry (Garfield Park)**
   
   206-208 S. Hamlin Blvd. Chicago
   
   773.826.3410

5. **Chicago Hope Food Pantry (Logan Square)**
   
   2505 N. Kedzie Blvd. Chicago
   
   773.384.6800

6. **Benton House (Bridgeport)**
   
   3034 S. Gratten Ave. Chicago
   
   773.927.6420
Farmers Markets

(Chicago)

1. 61st Street Farmers Market — Experimental Station*
   6100 S. Blackstone Ave.

2. Andersonville Farmers Market*
   1500 W. Berwyn Ave.

3. Columbus Park Farmers Market*
   W. Harrison St. & S. Central Ave.

4. Daley Plaza Chicago Farmers Market*
   50 W. Washington St.

5. Garfield Park Community Council*
   200 N. Kedzie Ave.

6. Green City Market — West Loop*
   801 W. Fulton Market

7. West Humboldt Park Farmers Market and Bazaar*
   3601 W. Chicago Ave.

8. Wicker Park Farmers Market*
   1425 N. Damen Ave.

(*) = Market provides Double Value Coupons. Spend $10 SNAP benefits on your Link card and receive $10 Double Value Coupons, allowing you to buy $20 worth of food. Valid at participating markets
Food & Housing Programs Nationwide

● **Immediate Food Aid**

Call the USDA National Hunger Hotline at **1-866-3-HUNGRY (1-866-348-6479)** or **1-877-8-HAMBRE (1-877-842-6273)**. Information is available in English and Spanish. The hotline operates Monday through Friday, 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM Eastern Time.

USDA Farmers Markets: learn more [here](#).

● **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**

[SNAP](#) is a federal nutrition program. Formerly known as “food stamps,” The SNAP benefits could help you to extend your food budget. You must meet the criteria for low income to be eligible for SNAP benefits. To get SNAP benefits, you must apply in the state in which you currently live.

● **Women, Infants and Children (WIC):** Food assistance program

WIC helps pregnant women, new mothers, and young children eat well and stay healthy. To apply for food assistance through WIC, you will need to contact your state or local agency and set up an appointment. Call the **toll-free number**. When you call to set up an appointment, someone will tell you the location nearest your home and what you need to bring with you.

● **Find A Food Bank**

Contact your local community food bank to find food banks near you. Learn more at [feedamerica.org](http://feedamerica.org).

● **Find Your Food Pantry**

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) lists health clinics, housing resources, food pantries and clothing assistance to eligible participants. Learn more at [https://www.hud.gov/](https://www.hud.gov/)
Housing/Shelter Resources within the Chicagoland Area

- **A Safe Haven Foundation** offers temp and permanent housing solutions for seniors, and young adults. (A Safe Haven Foundation provides support around homelessness, job searching, drug abuse, and alcohol addiction).
- **AllChicago.org** offers various programs, some of which offer rapid re-housing for all people experiencing homelessness.
- **The Rental Assistance Program** provides financial assistance to Chicago residents in danger of eviction in order to stabilize individuals and families in their existing rental unit. Residents apply in the closest Community Service Centers:
  - Garfield Center, 10 S. Kedzie Ave. Chicago, IL 60612, (312) 746-5400
  - King Center, 4314 S. Cottage Grove Ave. Chicago, IL 60653, (312) 747-2300
  - North Area, 845 W. Wilson Ave. Chicago, IL 60640 (312) 744-2580
- **The Night Ministry** is a Chicago-based organization that provides housing, healthcare, and community to those struggling with homelessness and financial insecurity. They serve teens, young adults, and adults, in crisis, in need of housing, in need of safe space, and in need of referrals. [Apply here](#).
- Additional directory of local Chicago Shelter locations can be found at: [ShelterList.com](#).

Housing/Shelter Resources Nationwide

Additional directory of national USA Shelter locations can be found at: [Homeless Shelter Directory](#).

- **Find a Shelter near you**
  1. **Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**: Offers long-term assistance for renters and homeowners and HUD can provide information for homeless shelters.
  2. **Catholic Charities** offers food assistance and provides emergency assistance grants that could help you to pay your rent.
  3. **United Way** offers crisis assistance ranging from food, housing and health benefits.
  4. **Modest Needs**: Modest Needs offers Self Sufficiency Grants of up to $1,000 to cover one emergency expense.
  5. **USDA Rural Development Program** helps people in rural areas with their mortgage or rent.
**Wireless Service**

- **Comcast** Offers free WiFi for 2 months to low-income families & shares that all Xfinity hot-spots are free to the public during this time. Unlimited data at no extra charge. Here’s a map of all the hotspots.
- **Spectrum Charter Free Internet** Offers free internet to students.
- **AT&T** Offers open hot-spots, unlimited data, waived late fees, and and $10/mo plans to low-income families
- **Verizon** Follows the FCC agreement* to waive late fees
- **Sprint** Follows FCC Agreement*, provides unlimited data to existing customers, and starting March 17, allows all handsets to enable hot-spots for 60 days at no extra charge
- **T-Mobile** Follows FCC agreement*, provides unlimited smartphone data to existing customers, and will allow all handsets to enable hot-spots for 60 days at no extra charge. And no international calling fees.
- **FCC Agreement**: States that providers will waive late fees, not cut-off service for lack of payment
- **More info on ABC Chicago**

**Health**

- **CHC** - Community Health Centers (CHCs) give medical support to those who do not have a medical provider, are uninsured, or have limited or no income. CHCs charge on a sliding scale, based on individual or family income and ability to pay. There are approximately 165 locations throughout Chicago. Find the location nearest you at hrsa.gov.
- **Nami Chicago** offers mental health and counseling. They offer virtual meetings and support groups. Their 24/7 helpline can give referrals, guidance, or expertise. A local resource that offers mental health support especially for people experiencing homelessness.