

# Where To Get Help

## Unemployment & Income Assistance

If you are currently out of work, the State of Florida's Reemployment Assistance Program may be able to provide financial assistance. For information about eligibility and the application process, read the State Department of Economic Opportunity's [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

[Apply for Reemployment Assistance \(New Claimants\)](#)

[En Español: Asistencia de Reempleo Información](#)

[Already applied for Reemployment Assistance? Sign in to claim your weeks](#)

### Paper Applications

If you experience technical difficulties with the Reemployment Assistance online application, you can also print and fill out a **paper application**:

( [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Creole](#) ) ***Please note that paper applications could potentially take longer for the state to process than completing an online application.***

Paper applications are also available at the locations below. For the purpose of social distancing, the papers are stocked in red boxes near the entrance of each location:

### **Seminole Community Library (St. Petersburg College Seminole Campus)**

9200 113th St. N., Seminole, FL 33772

### **Pinellas Public Library Cooperative building**

1330 Cleveland St., Clearwater, FL

### **Barbara S. Ponce Public Library**

7770 52nd St. N., Pinellas Park, FL 33781

### **St. Pete Beach Public Library**

365 73rd Ave., St. Pete Beach, FL 33706

### Resources for Employers:

- [SBA/US Treasury Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\)](#) (*resumed accepting applications on 4/27/20*)
- [Short Time Compensation Program for Employers](#): helps employers retain their workforce in times of temporary slowdown by encouraging work sharing as an alternative to layoff.

- [SBA Debt Relief Program](#): The SBA is providing a financial reprieve to small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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## Food Pantry/Distribution Sites

Pinellas County has more than 100 food distribution sites, offering prepared meals, groceries, and other resources for adults and children in need.

- View a comprehensive map of [Food Pantry and Prepared Meals Distribution Sites](#) to find a location near you.
- View a interactive map of [BreakSpots/Grab & Go Meals for Kids under 18](#).
- Visit Feeding Tampa Bay's [Online Map of Local Food Pantries](#).
- Mobile Food Pantries – find the next one in your neighborhood with this [online calendar](#).

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## School Meals

To find the closest schools that are offering meals to students during school closures, visit [Summer BreakSpot](#).

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## Home Meal Delivery for Kids & Seniors

- [Meals on Wheels for Kids](#)
- Neighborly Care Network/Meals on Wheels for Seniors: Drive-thru and delivery options available for older adults 60+ with safe social distancing – **Call 727-573-9444**

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## Apply for Food & Nutrition Assistance

Many requirements to apply for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) have been waived to help more people get immediate help paying for essentials – **no in-person interviews** are required.

[Apply online](#) or call 866-762-2237 or 850-300-4323 (TTY 1-800-955-8771). Agents are available for extended hours, 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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## Pet Care Assistance

**Pet Food Pantries**

The following organizations offer pet food pantries for pet owners who are facing financial hardship:

- **Pinellas County Animal Services**  
**Monday through Friday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.**  
12450 Ulmerton Rd.  
Largo, FL 33774  
**Phone:** (727) 582-2600  
**Details:** An employee will meet you at the entrance or you may call from the parking lot and an employee will come out to assist. Each citizen is limited to two bags or six cans of food per visit.
- **[Humane Society of Pinellas](#)**  
**Mondays and Tuesdays, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.**  
3040 State Road 590  
Clearwater, FL 33759  
**Phone:** (727) 797-7722  
**Details:** To pick up food, knock on the door at the Humane Society's Volunteer Village, located at their facility, and a representative will assist you and bring the food out to you.
- **[SPCA of Tampa Bay](#)**  
**Tuesdays from 1-5 p.m.**  
9099 130th Avenue North  
Largo, FL 33773  
**Phone:** (727) 586-3591, ext. 121  
**Details:** Call ahead to ensure the food pantry has adequate food stocks to meet your needs. If you are planning to pick up canned food, bring plastic grocery bags to transport the food home. When you arrive for your appointment, be sure to have a valid photo ID.

## Utilities

**Duke Energy** [announced on March 15](#) that the company would not disconnect customers' service for non-payment at this time in order to give customers experiencing financial hardship extra time to make payments. **Pinellas County Utilities** has also suspended water service terminations through May 16.

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## Internet for Students & Teachers

Spectrum is offering free WiFi for 60 days for Pre-K to 12, college student and teacher households that don't currently have internet or WiFi service. All installation and pre-payment fees will be waived. [View more information.](#)

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## Transportation

If you are unable to afford transportation and **need a ride to a food pantry, doctor appointment, grocery store, or job interview**, contact 211 Tampa Bay Cares about its [Ride United program](#). The program provides free round trip short-term rides via Lyft Ride Share. [View eligibility requirements and contact information](#).

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### Short Time Compensation Program for Employers:

This Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) program helps employers retain their workforce in times of temporary slowdown by encouraging work sharing as an alternative to layoff.

### **U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Resources:**

- [SBA Debt Relief Program](#): The SBA is providing a financial reprieve to small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- [SBA/US Treasury Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\)](#) (*resumed accepting applications on 4/27/20*)
- [SBA COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan](#) (*currently unable to accept new applications — check again later for updates*)
- For further information about these programs, please contact the SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955.

For the latest updates about resources for Pinellas County businesses, visit the Pinellas County Economic Development Council [website](#) or follow on [LinkedIn](#). Florida businesses can also visit <http://floridadisaster.biz> for more information.

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## Mental Health & Emotional Support

The following crisis hotlines provide free, confidential support:

- [211 Tampa Bay Cares](#): Dial 211, Text your zip code to 898211 or visit [211tampabay.org](http://211tampabay.org)
- [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#): Call 1-800-273-8255 or [Chat with Lifeline](#)
- Veterans Crisis Line: Call 1-800-273-8255 and press 1 or visit [veteranscrisisline.net](http://veteranscrisisline.net)
- [Directions for Living](#) is hosting an Emotional Support Call Line: (727)524-4464, ext 1001. Line is open seven days a week, from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m.
- [SAMHSA Disaster Distress Helpline](#). Call 1-800-985-5990 or text TalkWithUs to 66746
- [Crisis Textline](#). Text TALK to 741741

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## Resources for Pregnant Women & New Parents

The Healthy Start Coalition of Pinellas County is offering [resources](#) to help pregnant women and parents of babies younger than one year old during the COVID-19 outbreak. For questions about prenatal care, counseling, and other services, contact the Healthy Start Coalition using the contact information below:

Phone: 727-507-4260 (Leave a voicemail with your name and number)

Email: [info@healthystartpinellas.org](mailto:info@healthystartpinellas.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Healthystartofpinellascounty](https://www.facebook.com/Healthystartofpinellascounty)

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## Resources for Seniors

The following information is provided by the [Area Association on Aging in Pinellas](#). AAAPP offices are closed to the public and staff are working remotely. **All critical services will continue to be available by phone.**

- **AAAP Helpline and Intake/Screening/Medicaid teams remain open** during normal business hours. Call 1-800-963-5337 or 727-217-8111 for out of area callers.
- **Nutrition providers** remain available. Home meal delivery is being completed with six feet of distance to protect the elder receiving the meal and congregate dining has transitioned into drive-through dining services. **Drive through meal options are readily available for any older adult 60+**. To sign up, call Neighborly (Pinellas residents) at 727-573-9444 or Pasco Senior Services (Pasco residents) at 727-834-3340.
- **SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders)** and **Senior Victim Advocacy/Elder Abuse teams** are available for support and assistance via telephone only. You can reach both programs via the Helpline number above.
- **Case management teams** are continuing to coordinate & provide services wherever possible to individuals, but have put in place extra precautions to avoid the spread of the disease.
- **Adult day care, senior center programming, and other community sites** are largely suspended. Check with the direct provider or municipality for updates on site closures.

### Senior Shopping Hours:

- **[Dollar General](#)**: dedicating its first hour of operations each day to senior citizens.
- **[Fresh Market](#)**: inviting those most at risk in for an hour of safe shopping every weekday from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m.

- **[Publix](#)**: Starting March 24, those 65 and older can shop from 7 to 8 a.m. each Tuesday and Wednesday until further notice. Pharmacies will also be open.
- **[Target](#)**: reserving the first hour of shopping on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for elderly guests, pregnant women, and those defined by the CDC as vulnerable or at-risk.
- **[Walmart](#)**: The stores will invite customers 60 and older from 6 to 7 a.m. Tuesdays beginning March 24 through April 28. Pharmacies and vision centers will also be open.
- **[Whole Foods](#)**: serving customers who are 60 and older one hour before opening to the general public, under their new adjusted hours posted on the store's website.
- **[Winn-Dixie](#) and [Fresco y Mas](#)**: The stores now welcome seniors and high-risk customers from 8 to 9 a.m. Monday through Friday. Pharmacies are also open.

## Community Operations and Updates

- **Department of Children and Families** storefronts, **Social Security** offices, and many **municipal offices** are closed or suspended at this time. Many are still offering information and support via telephone – check with the specific provider for details.
- Transportation services for those who need it are available through [Find a Ride Florida](#). **PSTA has currently suspended all fees for riders until further notice to assist with social distancing practices.**

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## Questions?

Call the **Citizen Information Center (CIC)** at **(727) 464-4333**. Residents who are deaf or hard of hearing can contact the CIC via [online chat](#). CIC hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Closed Sunday)

For other resources, contact [211 Tampa Bay Cares](#) by **texting your zip code to 898211** or dialing 211 (available 24 hours a day).

## How To Help

Looking for a way to give back and help your community? Discover organizations that need your help right now.

## FAQ

A list of answers to the most pressing questions that residents are asking.