
Assistance with Household Basic Needs and Emergencies Available

August 13, 2020 – Cook County Public Health and Human Services (PHHS) reminds the public of assistance programs available locally to help people meet their basic needs.

“Many people are experiencing unexpected difficulties during the COVID-19 pandemic,” says Public Health and Human Services Director Alison McIntyre. “Cook County Public Health and Human Services can help. Staff is available to connect residents with programs that provide financial support and other resources.”

Programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) can help with household food needs, while cash assistance programs provide a safety net for housing expenses and other basic needs.

Emergency Assistance is also available to help people with shelter expenses, such as past due rent, a damage deposit or emergency shelter to prevent homelessness, as well as help with utilities when there is threat of disconnection.

Funding made available through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act through November 2020 will allow the department to serve more people experiencing emergencies due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Visit the Cook County COVID-19 Hub at www.cookcountycovid19.org for more information on assistance programs and how to apply.

-30-

Contact: Public Health and Human Services Director Alison McIntyre, 218-387-3620 or alison.mcintyre@co.cook.mn.us



Economic Assistance for People Impacted by COVID-19

Many people are experiencing unexpected difficulties during the COVID-19 pandemic. Cook County Public Health and Human Services can help. Our staff can connect you with programs to provide economic support and other resources to help you meet your basic needs.

Food Assistance

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP or food stamps)

Benefits are available through cards that can be used like debit cards to purchase food from grocery stores and other retailers.

WIC

The Women, Infants and Children program provides healthy foods and breastfeeding support for families from prenatal to age 5.

Call Sawtooth Mountain Clinic at (218) 387-2330

Cash and Housing Assistance

The **Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)** and **Diversionsary Work Program (DWP)** are income assistance programs to help families with low incomes move to financial stability through work. Families may also be eligible for help with childcare costs through the **Child Care Assistance Program**.

General Assistance (GA) and **Minnesota Supplemental Aid (MSA)** are Minnesota's income assistance programs for adults without children, seniors, and people with disabilities.

Emergency Assistance can help with shelter expenses, such as past due rent, a damage deposit or emergency shelter to prevent homelessness, as well as help with utilities when there is threat of disconnection.

Emergency assistance is also available through the **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act)** through November 2020. Contact Cook County PHHS for more information on assistance with housing, utilities and other basic needs when the emergency is due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Apply online at applymn.dhs.mn.gov/



Email: IM@co.cook.mn.us



Call: (218) 387-3620



Mail: Cook County PHHS 411 W. 2nd Street Grand Marais, MN 55604



Economic Assistance for People Impacted by COVID-19

Many people are experiencing unexpected difficulties during the COVID-19 pandemic. Cook County Public Health and Human Services can help. Our staff can connect you with programs to provide economic support and other resources to help you meet your basic needs.

Health Care Assistance

Minnesota Health Care Programs, including Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare, provide coverage for medical services or help paying for Medicare premiums, deductibles and copays. Apply online at www.mnsure.org or contact Cook County PHHS to request an application.

The [Cook County COVID-19 Hub](#) provides current and accurate information, maps and resources about the community wide response to the coronavirus. Online at: <https://coronavirus-response-cook-county-minnesota-1-cookcountymn.hub.arcgis.com/>. The Cook County COVID-19 Hub includes a link to the Cook County [Health and Community Service Agency](#) map with information on local non-profits and service agencies that can provide support in the areas of food and nutrition, health and wellness, mental health, transportation, senior services and more.