

Episcopal Relief and Development Webinar

4/17/2020: Individual Support During Time of COVID-19

Online Link: <https://mailchi.mp/episcopalrelief/webinar-recap-helping-individuals-access-resources-during-covid-19>

GENERAL SUPPORT – Applying for Benefits

- People need wifi access to benefit systems in order to apply. Most forms are online and require a computer. **Providing wifi or computer access might be a way that churches could be of assistance.**
- Individuals must have a physical address, PO Box or bank account to receive the stimulus check and other benefits. **This might be another way that churches could assist homeless or marginally housed people.**
 - Per Toni Snow, Friendship House in Wilmington has a client mailbox service where those who do not have an address can use their address. Person does need to go to the Wilmington address to pick up their mail.

CARES ACT – Check on Status of Stimulus Check

- To check on the status of person's payment if hasn't been received, go [here](#) and click on **GET MY PAYMENT** and follow instructions.
 - Note: If person owed monies on taxes, they gave IRS permission to withdrawal monies. They will need to give authorization to deposit monies by giving their routing number and bank information again.

CARES ACT Exclusions & Challenges

The CARES Act is providing relief in many forms, including through stimulus checks for US citizens and resident aliens who earn up to \$99,000 (adjusted gross income). Some people will receive these payments automatically, however, others will be excluded and others will be required to take additional steps to receive the assistance. To summarize:

- People between the ages of 17 to 24 who are claimed as dependents are ineligible.
 - *Tax code defines a child as "not attained age 17." The stimulus check is tied into the Child Tax Credit, which requires child to be under 17.*
- People who are undocumented, or live in mixed-status households are ineligible.
 - *The CARES Act excludes immigrants without a social security number, green card, or eligible work visas; elderly or disabled people who are claimed as dependents; and dependents ages 17 to 24.*
- If you have no income and/or have not filed taxes, you are still eligible to apply.
 - Eligible person can go [here](#) and click on **ENTER YOUR INFORMATION** and follow instructions.

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HOW THE CHURCH CAN SUPPORT

- Check in with people who are accessing your ministries to make sure they understand their rights and the services available to them.
 - See if there is a way to connect the people who are receiving help from you to each other so they can form a community to help each other
- Recognize that you may be leading/serving people who are applying for benefits for the first time due to being unemployed for the first time.
 - Can use language of *our* government rather than *the* government. *Our* people (referring to government workers) and *our* resources (meaning available to everyone) are there for you in your time of need.
- Destigmatize accessing government resources by placing links to applications on your website, in your mailings or mention resources in conversation.
- Can reach out to United Way in your area to see what resources are available. (Dialing 211 in Delaware)
- Get familiar with the CARES Act, your state's unemployment qualifications and other relevant benefits to your community.
 - Overview of the CARES Act, Foley & Lardner, LLP | [Explore](#)
 - Nutrition Assistance:
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/disaster/pandemic/covid-19>
 - Locations of Delaware schools offering free meals for children:
<https://www.doe.k12.de.us/page/4149> (can enter zip code at top of page)

Episcopal Relief and Development – US Disaster Resources

- [Link for Faith-based response to epidemics](#)
- [Link to Connection in the midst of an epidemic](#)
- [Link to Webinars](#)
- [Link to Resources for Ministry](#) – Topics: Preparedness; Over 60 and other pre-existing conditions; Unauthorized immigrants; Unhoused people; Self-care and Mental Health; National Crisis Hotlines; Liturgical

Link to make a donation to Episcopal Relief and Developments COVID-19 response efforts:

https://support.episcopalrelief.org/covid19?utm_campaign=fy20covid