

New Milford Social Services

September 2021



Greetings from New Milford Social Services,

Hello! I hope this newsletter finds you well, healthy, and safe. We all continue to face our own challenges as this pandemic lingers. In some ways, familiarity is coming back, but in other ways, adjustments are still needed as we all work together to keep each other safe. We appreciate your adaptability and patience as we move through these unique times.

I hope you get a chance to read this entire newsletter. We have two major programs opening up this month. Energy Assistance season has started. We are beginning to accept applications, primarily for deliverable fuel. We can take in-person appointments or you can continue to drop off a packet. We are starting early again for sign-ups for the Holidays. The programs will look very similar to last year's, and sadly, we will need to postpone Sibling Shopping once again. However, we have been chatting with Santa and hope to schedule a special visit with "the big guy"! We also have another major change to one of our biggest programs, the Food Bank. On page 4, you will see an announcement from Lauren. Her and her volunteers have been working very hard to bring our food bank back to its location, near our offices. We have safety protocols and air circulators in place to continue our commitment of care for all who enter.

Throughout this newsletter, we have many resources to assist those who have been effected financially by COVID. Whether it interrupted your personal finances last year or it continues to interrupt your income sources currently, there may be help out there. UniteCT can help with back rent and rent for the near future. If you are worried about remaining in your home, please reach out. This program has already helped over 42 residents and property owners with \$336,000+ in rental funds. There is also help for internet service, including for families with children receiving free and reduced lunch. Our Town continues to ease access to COVID testing and vaccines, and our friends at the NM Youth Agency have begun to offer counselling services for our youth. In addition, we have been working hard with our local workforce committee to bring Career Advisors to NM to assist with employment connection and job training. You will see the flyer for their next visit on page 3. Lastly, on page 3, you will see the announcement of the launch of Properi-key from the United Way. This is an online service for folks to connect to resources that can ease financial burdens. Some of these resources included discounts or special offers from local businesses. Our last page, we have devoted to our Diverse Community Advocate, Maria. She has a special message for our diverse community as we work to connect all in need in our Town. We hope you find this newsletter full of opportunities for you and your family. ~ Ivana

Our Staff:

Monika Roberts, Office Coordinator

Maria De Oliveira, Social Worker & Diverse Community Advocate.

[Maria habla español y portugués]

Lauren Haire, Social Worker & Volunteer Coordinator

Ivana Butera, Director

The mission of New Milford Social Services is to offer resources and programs to enhance the well-being and self-sustainability of New Milford residents experiencing financial hardship by addressing basic needs including food and household self-sufficiency.

We support our community through empowerment, advocacy, compassion and connection to opportunities to increase the resilience of our residents in need.

Programs

(Please note that income guidelines vary per program.

Please call us with any questions)

**New Milford Food Bank*

**Energy (Heating) Assistance*

**Emergency Financial Assistance [limited funding] & Counseling re:*

Rent/Mortgage

Home bills

Child Expenses

Medical Bills

Transportation Costs

Food & Clothing

**Basic Need Assistance*

**Counseling/Crisis Intervention-limited Financial Literacy*

**Information and Referral: Local, State, Federal resources and entitlement programs*

**Renter's Rebate for disabled renters under age 60. [Seasonal]*

**Family Programs:*

Baby Bundle Registration

Camp and Enrichment Activity Scholarships for Children [limited funding]

Back to School Program Registration [seasonal]

Winter Holiday Gifts Children [seasonal]

*[*Funding based on State grants or community donations]*



2 Pickett District Rd.

New Milford, CT 06776


(P) 860-355-6079

(F) 860-355-6019

Email: socialservices@newmilford.org

Website: www.newmilford.org

 New Milford Social Services

We welcome and respect the diversity of all who enter our office. 

PROGRAM UPDATES:



ENERGY and UTILITY ASSISTANCE: Open for early applications, especially for deliverable fuels.

New Milford Social Services is the local agency to assist residents under the age of 60 with financial assistance applications for the following programs. *Please contact our office for more information and guidelines to apply. [If you are over the age of 60 please contact the New Milford Senior Center]*

- **CT Energy Assistance Program (CEAP)** We are taking applications for the upcoming winter season, prioritizing people with deliverable fuels or those with electric heat on a budget plan. **Please call the office so we can send you the application packet.** In aligning with safety and health guidelines, we are asking for packets to be filled out, signed, and returned to our office as soon as possible. Please include all required income and relevant documentation. An incomplete application can slow down the process. **If you would like to make an appointment to complete the application with a social worker, please call the office.**
- **The first day for fuel deliveries is November 1, 2021** and a delay in completing your application can delay the certification process with the local community action agency. The income guidelines for this State program are:
The income guidelines for this State program are:

60% SMI- CEAP income guidelines: based on Family size

1	2	3	4	5	6
\$39,027	\$51,035	\$63,044	\$75,052	\$87,060	\$99,069

- All **electric heated households** who completed the Matching Payment program last year will be automatically re-enrolled onto Eversource's MPP. **Remember that you still need to re-apply for Energy Assistance through our office every year!** You will receive a letter stating what your monthly budget payment is in November. All payments need to be in by the end of each month, and *all* six payments must be received by April 30th in order to get a "match". If Eversource raises your budget, pay the new amount if you can. If you cannot, pay the old amount and be sure to discuss this with us at the time of your application, you may qualify for a below budget worksheet.
- **Winter Protection Program** helps protect your Eversource account from being shut off while you work on getting on and following through with a payment plan like NewStart or Matching Payment Program. Please call our office and we can code your account through this program.
- **Operation Fuel** Winter program starting date will be announced in couple of months. Their Summer/Fall program is currently open to apply for Utility help, as long as funding is available. Remember, Operation Fuel's income guidelines go up to 75% of the State Median Income. Please call our office with inquiries.
- The **Community Fuel Bank** is also available for an emergency assist. Exploring the above programs is part of the process before CFB is accessible.



Sign Up **OPEN FOR** **HOLIDAY PROGRAMS!**



We are now accepting registration for Thanksgiving, Santa Fund and Disabled Adult gift programs. Sibling Shopping is still postponed due to COVID and the Delta variant however, we hope to bring Santa in for another fun event! (fingers crossed!) Distribution dates, times and place will be announced in next month's newsletter. **REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 5th.** Proof of income and residency is required. If you have not shared your 2021 income with our office, now is the time to do it.

NEW MILFORD **YOUTH AGENCY**

New Milford Youth Agency is offering no-cost counseling services to middle and high school-aged students beginning June 28, 2021

Notification of availability for younger students to come at a later date

Please contact us to schedule an intake

New Milford Youth Agency
2 Pickett District Rd.
New Milford, CT 06776
(860) 210-2030
www.youthagency.org



SNAP \$\$ at the FARMERS MARKET



We will be at the New Milford Farmers Market on Saturday's from June through October Stop by and have \$15 SNAP dollars **DOUBLED** for delicious fruit and vegetables! Other coins can be purchased for other foods that the Market has to offer such as dairy, meat and bakery!

-COVID-19 TESTING & VACCINE Clinic

~NEW MILFORD OFFERS COVID-19 weekly testing and vaccine clinics



@John Pettibone Community Center

Even though it may be asked, it is **NOT** required for adults to show ID or have insurance. It **IS** required for minors to show proof of age. Please visit Town of New Milford website for dates and registration times:

www.newmilford.org



JOB SEARCHING?

New Milford Social Service assists with employment opportunities and training by informing, displaying, and connecting job/training opportunities for our community. We have a job board in our office & we will email new information to our mailing list. We also welcome the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Bureau to New Milford. They will be in town at least once a month to offer information and connection to employment resources. To make an appointment to meet with their workforce advisor, please call our office or email us. They will be here on Thursday, October 7th from 9am-11am @ NMSS.

COVID 19 RESOURCES

Please contact our office if you need any assistance with applying for these programs.

UNITE CT provides emergency rental (up to \$15,000 in back & future rent) and utility assistance (\$1500) for those experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19 in 2020 or 2021. **THIS IS FOR TENANTS AND LANDLORDS to APPLY @ <https://portal.ct.gov/DOH/DOH/Programs/UniteCT>**

Cualquier persona que no tenga un número de seguro social o ITN puede llamar al CIRI (Instituto de Connecticut para Inmigrantes y Refugiados) para obtener ayuda con el alquiler al (203) 336-0141

HOMEOWNERS help @

<https://portal.ct.gov/DOB/Consumer/Consumer-Help/COVID-19-Mortgage-Relief>

<https://www.chfa.org/>
<https://www.fanniemaec.com/here-help-homeowners>

INTERNET Assistance: Financial assistance from local internet and mobile phone providers
<https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit>

Onward CT- one stop resource for people of Connecticut who have been impacted by COVID-19 and lost their job: <https://onwardct.org/>

CT Hires is a website provided by CT Department of Labor: For job search or exploring careers: <https://www.cthires.com/vosnet/Default.aspx>

TBICO is an area agency dedicating to helping people re-enter the workforce, build-up their employable skills, become self-sufficient and financially mobile. 203-743-6695 <http://www.tbicoworks.org/>

Make an appointment- See what they have to offer!



CHECK YOUR PAYMENT STATUS for **ADVANCE CHILD TAX CREDIT:**

<https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/child-tax-credit-update-portal>



ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A CAREER PATH? THINKING OF CHANGING YOUR CAREER PATH?

Register to meet with a Career Adviser

Thursday, October 7th
9:00am-11:00am

@ New Milford Social Service
John Pettibone Community Center



Registration is required

By phone at 860.355.6079 or
email at socialservices@newmilford.org

Resources & Training for the following:

- Construction
- CNA (Certified Nurses Aide)
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Culinary Arts
- EMT Training
- CDL Training (Commercial Driver's License)
- Senior Work Opportunities
- Job Search
- Resume and Cover Letter Writing
- Interview Skills and More!



HOMEOWNERS help @

<https://portal.ct.gov/DOB/Consumer/Consumer-Help/COVID-19-Mortgage-Relief>

<https://www.chfa.org/>
<https://www.fanniemaec.com/here-help-homeowners>

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<https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit>

CARE 4 KIDS INCOME ELIGIBILITY HAS INCREASED FOR NEW APPLICANTS!

APPLY TODAY! @ www.ctcare4kids.com

The State of CT received childcare relief funding through the American Rescue Plan Act. These funds have allowed Care 4 Kids to temporarily expand childcare assistance to families with income up to 60% of the state median income (SMI). This increase in income eligibility will only remain in effect while funding received through the ARPA is available.

UNITED WAY PRESENTS:



Are you working around the clock to make ends meet?
Prosperi-Key brings you resources from local businesses, non-profits and government.
It's a marketplace that aims to make life easier for your hard working household.

www.prosperikkey.org



Explore Our Catalog
Offers and savings that make life just a little bit easier.



Become a Member
Tell us more. See if you qualify!



Make Them Yours
Claim offers and apply for funds or programs, all in one place.

Very Important Messages from New Milford Food Bank

Food Bank days for distribution:



HOURS

Thursdays: 9 a.m. -4 p.m.
 @ New Milford Social Services
 2 Pickett District Road

Choice pantry. Please bring your own bags. Pre-registration required. Masks Required. COVID- 19 safety & health protocols practiced.

“This institution is an equal opportunity provider”

Sept 2021						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



FOOD BANK MOVING BACK! Starting September 9th

Food Bank will be moving back to the room across from the Social Services office. Hours will be from **9 AM to 4PM every Thursday**. Parking and entry will be through the social services side of the building (playground side of the building). **Entrance inside the hallway and in the pantry room will be limited due to COVID-19 protocols**. We have installed air purifiers to enhance the safety of you, our volunteers and staff but **masks must be worn at all times while you wait and shop**. We will be re-stocking all day with fresh, frozen and shelf stable food so there is no need to come early. If you cannot make these hours please call Lauren at (860)355-6079 x3.

We are very excited to be back in our own space and have been working hard to make this a healthy and safe space with an abundance of choices for you and your families!
 Thank you

Other Community Food Programs

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY- In NEW MILFORD-First Wednesday of Every Month!

Next Date: Wed, October 6,
4:30pm – 5:30pm



Where: Faith Church, 600 Danbury Rd #1, New Milford, CT 06776

Description: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the format of our food distribution at our Mobile Pantry sites will change to keep volunteers and shoppers safe. Most sites are now drive-thru or a take-away, pre-packaged supply of food. Each site is staffed by a host organization that determines a safe distribution format based on its location and staffing. For more information, contact the food bank at 203-469-5000. Our full schedule of Mobile Pantry locations and links to more food resources are at www.ctfoodbank.org/gethelp. Please note that our Mobile Pantry schedule is always subject to change, so check back regularly.



OUR DAILY BREAD FOOD PANTRY

Thursdays, 2pm-6pm

Drive up Service
 Upper Level of
 New Milford United Methodist Church
 68 Danbury Road



Provides all children in New Milford year-round access to food. Sign up on their website at Camella's Cupboard. Food distribution is every Friday, late afternoon.



“LOAVES AND FISHES HAS RESUMED DINING ROOM MEALS DAILY”!

Carry out dinners served during the shutdown period have been discontinued. The dining room is open and dinner is served **daily from 4:30 – 5:30 P.M.** at the Richmond Center, 40 Main Street. Guests will receive bag lunches after the meal. Masks and social distancing are required at this time for entry. There are some masks available for guests.

2021 HOLIDAY PROGRAM REGISTRATION

For Thanksgiving Food Bag/ Holiday Gift Cards for Children/ Disabled Adults (w/o children) Gift Cards

These programs are for income eligible New Milford residents (under the age of 60). If you have not provided verification of income & residency to New Milford Social Services in 2021, you will need to do so within one week of registering for any programs.

Due to COVID-19 and the Delta Variant, our Holiday Programs will continue to look different this year. We will continue to offer gift cards to local stores. Although we will do our best, we cannot guarantee the gift cards of choice. Also, we are offering one special toy request (under \$50 value) for infants - age 13. Distribution dates are still being determined. You will be notified via email & a notice will be posted at the food bank & in our office. If you choose to sign up for these programs, we must have up-to-date copies of proof of household income and proof of residency on file in our office.

Today's Date: _____

Name: _____

Adults in home: # Children (<18 age) in home:

Address: _____

Best way to reach you:

Phone #1: _____

Phone #2: _____

EMAIL: _____

DUE DATE TO APPLY:
By Friday, NOVEMBER 5, 2021

PROGRAM SIGNUP LIST:
(Check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> THANKSGIVING: _____ PICKUP & Time- To be announced	OFFICE USE ONLY: #
<input type="checkbox"/> SANTA FUND Custodial parents (children in the home UNDER age 18) *DATE to Pick Up & Time- To be announced	#
<input type="checkbox"/> DISABLED Adult Gift Card (Individuals w/o children in the home) Distribution date- To be announced	#

Store Choice: _____

There will be NO SIBLING SHOPPING again this year but we are hoping to add another "Visit from Santa/Toy" event

CHILD #1 Santa Fund for children under 18 years old

Child's First Name: _____ Age: _____ Gender: _____ Identity: Boy/Girl/NonB

Toy Request for Infant to Age 13_(must be under \$50 value): _____

Gift Card 1st Store Choice: _____ No VISA or MC Gift Cards

Request: 2nd Store Choice: _____

ASSIGNED FAMILY Number:

A

CHILD #2 Santa Fund for children under 18 years old

Child's First Name: _____ Age: _____ Gender: _____ Identity: Boy/Girl/NonB

Toy Request for Infant to Age 13_(must be under \$50 value): _____

Gift Card 1st Store Choice: _____ No VISA or MC Gift Cards

Request: 2nd Store Choice: _____

ASSIGNED FAMILY Number:

B

CHILD #3 Santa Fund for children under 18 years old

Child's First Name: _____ Age: _____ Gender: _____ Identity: Boy/Girl/NonB

Toy Request for Infant to Age 13_(must be under \$50 value): _____

Gift Card 1st Store Choice: _____ No VISA or MC Gift Cards

Request: 2nd Store Choice: _____

ASSIGNED FAMILY Number:

C

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Santa Fund: XCEL	Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Thanksgiving
Sibling Shopping: XCEL	Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Santa Fund
Disabled Adult: XCEL	Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Disabled
Thanksgiving: XCEL	Database	

CLIENT ID

SW

Income Verified

Approval Date



Un mensaje especial a nuestra diversa comunidad de nuestro trabajador social:

María De Oliveira

Ha sido un honor servir a la diversa comunidad de New Milford como trabajadora social. Nuestro boletín proporciona una variedad de recursos importantes para nuestra comunidad. Los programas importantes actuales son Asistencia energética. Es una asistencia para combustible o electricidad. Comuníquese con nosotros para presentar una solicitud. También hay asistencia de Covid que brinda ayuda para el alquiler, la electricidad, Internet y la hipoteca. Las inscripciones navideñas también están comenzando. Se requiere que recibamos un comprobante de ingresos de todos los adultos en el hogar y que viva en New Milford. Hay información de clínicas de vacunación y pruebas de COVID. Los adultos no necesitan identificación y nadie necesita seguro para recibir la vacuna. Nuestro banco de alimentos está de regreso en el área de nuestra oficina en JPCC (justo en el otro extremo del edificio, donde solíamos estar). El horario es de 9AM A 4PM El jueves. Se requiere máscaras.

Por favor llámame con cualquier pregunta Teléfono 860-355-6079 ext 4, Email mdeoliveira@newmilford.org.

PERMIT NO. 10
NEW MILFORD CT 06776
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PRESORT STANDARD



NEW MILFORD SOCIAL SERVICES
2 PICKETT DISTRICT RD
NEW MILFORD CT. 06776
860-355-6079
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED