



The health & safety of the Walpole community is the Town of Walpole's top priority. In collaboration with municipal departments, nonprofit organizations, and other local area agencies and clergy, the Town has assembled these resources that are available for Walpole Families who may be in need. All inquiries are confidential.

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## **MASS211.ORG**

Mass 211 is an easy-to-use telephone number that connects callers to information about critical health and human services available in their community. It serves as a resource for finding government benefits and services, nonprofit organizations, support groups, volunteer opportunities, donation programs, and other local resources. All calls are completely confidential. Mass 211 maintains the integrity of the 9-1-1 system while saving that vital community resource for life and death emergencies.

More information can be found at <https://www.211.org>

## **MEDICAL ADVICE & SERVICES**

### **MassHealth**

MassHealth provides health benefits and help paying for them to qualifying children, families, seniors, and people with disabilities living in Massachusetts. We may offer benefits directly or help pay for all or part of your health insurance premiums. If you are a member, you may have access to doctor visits, dental, prescription drugs, behavioral health services, and other important health care services. To apply or for eligibility information, contact the Customer Service Center at **(800) 841-2900** or visit <http://www.mass.gov/masshealth>.

### **Walpole Emergency Medical Aid Fund**

The Walpole Emergency Medical Aid Fund was established in 1940 with funds donated by local educator and politician Philip Allen. The purpose of the fund is to help town residents pay for medical care that is not covered by insurance or other funding sources. Any resident of the Town of Walpole is eligible to receive financial assistance. If you are a resident of the Town of Walpole and are in need of emergency medical support, please complete the application on the [Town of Walpole website](#) and send to the Medical Aid Committee at [walpolemedicalaid@gmail.com](mailto:walpolemedicalaid@gmail.com)



## **APPLY FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

There are different types of housing available for low-income families, elderly persons, and those with disabilities. Congregate and supportive housing with assisted living services may also be available.

To apply for state-aided Family and Elderly/Handicapped public housing, you must use the Common Housing Application for Massachusetts Public Housing (CHAMP). You can apply using CHAMP either online using the link below or in person by completing a printed paper application.

For eligibility or to access the CHAMP, visit <https://publichousingapplication.ocd.state.ma.us/> or contact the Department of Housing & Community Development at **617-573-1100**.

## **FUEL ASSISTANCE**

Self Help, Inc. is a nonprofit Community Action Agency (CAA) created to help low-income families and individuals stabilize and secure their lives.

Self Help, Inc. (SHI)  
1362 Main Street  
Brockton, MA 02301  
800-255-0875

## **FOOD & NUTRITION ASSISTANCE**

The Walpole Community Food Pantry will continue to help families who would benefit from additional food. Their goal is to support families in the most flexible manner possible by distributing food packages one day a week at our usual distribution site – Walpole High School. No need to pre-register.

Food packages will be distributed out of the Walpole High School (275 Common Street) today Wednesday, March 2nd between the hours of 2:30 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.

The Pantry is hoping to provide a weekly offering of fresh fruits, vegetables, milk, eggs, cheese, proteins such as meats and fish, and a box of shelf-stable food with essential non-food items, if requested.

If your family faces a hardship that prevents you from being able to pick up your food packages from the Walpole High School please reach out to the Walpole School Nutrition Department at [wpsnutrition@walpole.k12.ma.us](mailto:wpsnutrition@walpole.k12.ma.us) to explore alternative options.

Please Note: If Walpole Public schools are cancelled due to inclement weather there will be NO food distribution on that day. Anyone who has an emergency need for food, please email [wpsnutrition@walpole.k12.ma.us](mailto:wpsnutrition@walpole.k12.ma.us) and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

Additionally, the state's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budget of needy families to purchase healthy food and move towards self-sufficiency. For more information and eligibility requirements, visit <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap>



## UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

Have you lost your job? You may qualify for temporary income to support you while you look for a new one from the Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA). DUA oversees the unemployment insurance (UI) program, which provides temporary income assistance to eligible workers in Massachusetts.

You should apply for unemployment benefits during your first week of total or partial unemployment. Most claims are processed within 21-28 days after filing. It may take longer if there is an issue with your claim. To get help with your claim, call Unemployment Customer Assistance at (877) 626-6800.

## LEGAL SERVICES

**MetroWest Legal Services** provides free civil legal aid to low-income people and victims of crime who would be denied justice without help. Their priority practice areas include: Family Law, Housing, Homeless Advocacy, Government Benefits (including Social Security), Education, Elder Law & Immigration.

The MWLS office is open for intakes and available to help. If you are in need of legal assistance, please call 508-620-1830 or fill out the online intake form at <https://mwlegal.org/>.

## SERVICES FOR VETERANS

The **Walpole Office of Veterans Services** continues to provide support for veterans and their families. If you need assistance with federal or state veteran's benefits, please contact VSO Mark Bryson at **508-668-7325** or email [mbryson@walpole-ma.gov](mailto:mbryson@walpole-ma.gov).

**VA Boston Community Clinics** provides Virtual Care to protect veterans, staff and the community against COVID-19. For more information, questions or concerns, contact the VA Boston Call Center available 24 hours a day, at **857-364-4418**.

## SERVICES FOR ELDERS

Outreach services are available through the **Walpole Council on Aging**. Please visit 60 South Street or call **508-668-3330**.

The **SHINE (Serving Health Information Needs of Everyone) Program** provides free health insurance information and counseling to all Massachusetts residents with Medicare. SHINE counselors appointments are available by telephone. Please contact Laurel St. Pierre, Outreach Worker, to schedule an appointment, 508-668-3330 or email [LStpierre@walpole-ma.gov](mailto:LStpierre@walpole-ma.gov).

The Walpole Council on Aging works closely with **HESSCO Elder Services**, the Aging Services Access Point for Walpole and surrounding towns. HESSCO Home Delivered Meals or Meals on Wheels Program service is fully operational and can accommodate new referrals. Please call HESSCO directly at **781-784-4944**.

For information about outreach and senior services, please contact the Walpole Council on Aging at **508-668-3330**.



## MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

### Samaritans

During these trying times, life can feel overwhelming. If you are feeling lonely, desperate, or suicidal, know that you are never alone. Call or text the Samaritans Helpline anytime at **877-870-4673**. It's available 24/7, it's free, and it's confidential.

**Disaster Distress Helpline** is a 24/7, 365-day-a-year national hotline dedicated to providing immediate crisis counseling for people experiencing emotional distress related to any natural or human-caused disaster, including disease outbreaks like COVID-19. This toll-free multilingual and confidential crisis support service is available to all residents in the United States and its territories. Speak with a crisis counselor at **800-985-5990**.

### INTERFACE

Mental Health Referral Helpline is a free, confidential mental health outpatient referral service for children, adults, and families. Callers are matched with licensed mental health providers from INTERFACE's extensive database. Call their toll-free hotline at **888-244-6843** or visit <https://interface.williamjames.edu/>

## RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICES

**Turning Point Recovery Center • 32 Common Street • 508-668-3960**

**Email:** [turningpointrc@baystatecs.org](mailto:turningpointrc@baystatecs.org)

**Website:** <https://turningpointrecoverycenter.org/>

Turning Point is a local, free, safe, and supportive space for people who have struggled with or have been affected by substance use disorder. It's an opportunity to get involved in recovery and wellness practices and to build a healthy fulfilling life without drugs and alcohol. Each staff member is a person in long term recovery.

Massachusetts Peer Recovery Support Centers provide individuals in recovery from substance use disorder, as well as family members and loved ones affected by addiction, an opportunity to both offer and receive support. Turning Point Recovery Support Center is a recovery-oriented sanctuary. We support multiple pathways of recovery, provide hope, and promote wellness.

We offer support through, recovery resources, social events, education, recreational activities, peer-to-peer support groups, and various wellness groups. As a community we provide members the opportunity to build their own unique individual, social and community support, to help prevent relapse and promote long-term recovery from addiction. We are currently open 10-6 Monday-Friday and 9-2 Saturday.

### Massachusetts Substance Abuse Hotline

Helpline services are free and confidential. Our caring, trained Specialists will help you understand the treatment system and your options. Get help today by dialing **800-327-5050**.

### National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

The Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals. Call **800-273-8255**.

### Online Meetings

Browse the online meeting directories here:

- [Alcoholics Anonymous Online Meetings](#)
- [Narcotics Anonymous Online Meetings](#)
- [Marijuana Anonymous Online Meetings](#)



## **TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

**Board of Assessors • Town Hall, Room 115 • 508-660-7315**

### **Tax Exemption for Older Citizens (Clause 41C):**

To qualify, a taxpayer:

- Must be over 65 years of age as of July 1, 2021 AND
- Must have primary residence in Massachusetts for ten years and owned property in the state for five years and must have occupied the property as of July 1, 2020 AND
- Must have an Income of less than \$20,000 if single, \$30,000 if married AND
- Assets not to exceed \$40,000 if single, \$55,000 if married. (Excluded assets are domicile, household items, and motor vehicles.)
- Exemption amount ranges from \$1,000 to \$2,000

### **Tax Deferral for Older Citizens (Clause 41A):**

To qualify, a taxpayer:

- Must be over 65 years of age as of July 1, 2021 AND
- Must have primary residence in Massachusetts for ten years and owned property in the state for five years AND
- Must have occupied the property as of July 1, 2021 AND
- Gross annual income cannot exceed: Single \$62,000 Married \$93,000.
- Interest on amount deferred is 4% simple interest.

### **Senior Circuit Breaker Credit: (Income Tax Credit)**

To qualify, a taxpayer:

- Must be 65 or older before December 31, 2021 AND
- Must own or rent in Massachusetts as principal residence AND
- Must have gross income less than \$62,000 if such person is single and not head of household, less than \$78,000 if such person is head of household, or less than \$93,000 if such person files a joint tax return with spouse AND
- Must not have an assessed real estate valuation exceeding \$884,000.
- Maximum Credit amount up to \$1,100 of State Income Tax Credit (Not Property Taxes). (SATM 2009)

### **Senior Property Tax Work-Off Program:**

To qualify, a taxpayer:

- Must be sixty (60) years of age or older as of July 1, 2021 AND
- Must own and occupy, as principal place of residence to which the tax work-off credit will be applied, as of July 1, 2021 AND
- Must work as a volunteer for a designated Town Department for 91 hours within the tax year.
- Receive up to \$1,000 property tax abatement.

### **Elderly, Surviving Spouse, Minor Child (Clause 17D):**

To qualify, a taxpayer:

- Must be a surviving spouse or surviving minor child and be over 65 years of age as of July 1, 2021 AND
- Must have owned and occupied the property for five years AND
- Assets not to exceed \$40,000. (Excluded assets are domicile, household items, and motor vehicles.)
- Exemption amount ranges from \$175 to \$350.

### **Disabled Veteran (Clause 22):**

To qualify, a taxpayer:

- Must be a veteran or spouse of a veteran AND
- Must have a service-connected disability of 10% or more AND
- Certification of war-service connected disability from the Veterans Administration and Separation Papers.
- Must have lived in Massachusetts for not less than 5 years prior to filing exemption.
- Honorably discharged.
- Exemption amount range \$400 up to Full Tax Bill.

### **Blind Person (Clause 37A):**

To qualify, a taxpayer:

- Must be a legal resident of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts AND
- Own and occupy the property as his/her domicile as of July 1 AND
- You must submit a current "Certificate of Legal Blindness" from the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind.
- Exemption amount ranges from \$500 to \$1,000.





## **'SMILING EYES' RECREATION PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP**

The Smiling Eyes Scholarship is a financial assistance program designed to assist eligible Walpole families in enrolling their child(ren) in town-sponsored recreation programs.

To be considered, the **Smiling Eyes Scholarship Application** must be completed by your child's guidance counselor or school principal (see below). Completed applications will then be submitted to the Recreation Department by the Walpole Public Schools representative. Applications will be confidentially reviewed by the Recreation Director and Recreation Committee Chairperson on a case-by-case basis. Approved individuals will be contacted with further instruction on how to register their child for Recreation programming. The application is available at [www.walpolerec.com](http://www.walpolerec.com).

Smiling Eyes will contribute toward the registration of a recreation programming for a child. One application is required for each applicant. Funds expire at the end of each season and will not transfer from season to season. Funding amount is subject to change based on availability.

## **WALPOLE PUBLIC SCHOOL COUNSELORS**

Daniel Feeney Preschool	Elm Street School	Old Post Road School	Boyden Elementary School	Fisher Elementary	Johnson Middle School	Bird Middle School	Walpole High School
Julie Martin Director	Jessica Simpson Counselor	Tiffany Pereira Counselor	Lauren Tilton Counselor	Carly Callaghan Counselor	Sarah Giunta Counselor	Katie Gingras Counselor	Kate Murray Director

## **LOCAL NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**

There are many nonprofit organizations in Walpole that may be able to assist with rent, food, utilities, and other expenses. Please contact them individually for more information.

**St. Vincent de Paul  
Society**  
508-476-6003

**Junior Women's Club of  
Walpole**  
[jwcwinfo@gmail.com](mailto:jwcwinfo@gmail.com)

**Community  
Treasurers**  
508-380-1925

**United Church Friendly  
Aid Fund**  
508-668-0551

## **FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS IN WALPOLE**

**United Church in Walpole**  
30 Common Street  
508-668-0551

**Blessed Sacrament Church**  
10 Diamond Street  
508-668-4700

**Saint Mary Church**  
176 Washington Street  
508-668-4700

**South Walpole United Methodist**  
1886 Washington Street  
508-668-2530

**Union Congregational Church**  
55 Rhoades Avenue  
508-668-1355

**Epiphany Parish**  
62 Front Street  
508-668-2353

**Word of Life Church**  
32 Main Street  
508-660-1292

**All Nations Worship Center**  
492 Main Street  
508-668-1828