



As the corona virus outbreak continues to unfold, the health & safety of the Walpole community remains 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.

For more information about the Town of Walpole's ongoing response to the Corona Virus, please visit www.walpole-ma.gov/covid19.

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. Always a confidential call, Mass 211 maintains the integrity of the 9-1-1 system saving that vital community resource for life and death emergencies.

MEDICAL ADVICE & SERVICES

BUOYHEALTH.COM – Symptom Check

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has partnered with Buoy Health to help residents figure out if they need to seek testing for COVID-10. Screen your symptoms online <http://www.buoyhealth.com>.

MassHealth

MassHealth provides health benefits and helps pay for them to qualifying children, families, seniors, and people with disabilities living in Massachusetts. They may offer benefits directly or help pay for all or part of your health insurance premiums. In response to COVID-19, all MassHealth Enrollment sites are closed for walk-in visitors until further notice. 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

Established in 1940, Philip Allen donated funds to establish the Walpole Emergency Medical Aid Fund. 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 funds. If you are a resident of the Town of Walpole and are in need of emergency medical support, please contact a member of the Medical Aid Committee for more information at walpolemedicalaid@gmail.com

Walpole Emergency Medical Aid Fund
P.O. Box 722
Walpole, MA 02081



RENTERS & HOMEOWNER INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT)

- The Department of Housing & Community Development has made a new \$5 million fund available under the RAFT program. The RAFT program helps keep eligible households who may face eviction, foreclosure, loss of utilities, and other housing emergencies as a result of COVID-19.
- RAFT funding is distributed by Regional Administering Agencies. RAFT funding assists households of all sizes and configurations with financial assistance up to \$4,000 per household to help preserve current housing or move to new housing.

Suspension of Evictions at Housing Authorities

All state-aided public housing operators (including Local Housing Authorities) have been directed to suspend pending essential evictions and the filing of any new non-essential evictions.

Suspension of Affordable Housing by Private Providers

Private, affordable housing have been urged to suspend non-essential evictions for loss of income or employment circumstances that result in a tenant's inability to pay rent. Also urges operators to establish reasonable payment plans.

Municipal Bills

The Town of Walpole understands that some of our residents may have difficulty paying their bills at this time. We want you to know that legislation has been filed to help those impacted by this pandemic. The legislation would extend the due dates for municipal bills and any effect this change would have on late payments. We are waiting to hear on the final approval. In the meantime, if you have any questions or need more information, contact the Treasurer / Collector's office at **508-660-7299**.

Please remember, Town Hall is closed and therefore we cannot accept cash payments, however there are still three other ways to pay:

- Use our online payment system on our website at www.walpole-ma.gov
- Mail your bill and remittance in the envelope enclosed with your bill
- Drop off a check and bill in the drop box in the back of Town Hall

Utilities

The Department of Public Utilities has suspended the disconnection of utility services for non-payment during this state of emergency.

- **Eversource** is eliminating late-payment charges and offering other flexible payment plans. Visit www.eversource.com or speak with a customer service representative at **800-583-2000**.
- **Columbia Gas** is offering their customers who indicate an impact or hardship as a result of COVID-19 flexible payment plans and will suspend late payment charges until May 1. Visit www.columbiagasma.com or speak with a customer service representative at **800-688-6160**.

Tenants should be aware of their rights and remedies available to them as a tenant in Massachusetts. Visit www.mass.gov/info-details/tenant-rights or contact the MA Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulations at 617-973-8787.



APPLY FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

State-aided public housing is available for low-income families, elderly, or individuals with disabilities in buildings owned by the Local Housing Authorities throughout 240 cities and towns in Massachusetts.

For eligibility or to apply, visit www.publichousingapplication.ocd.state.ma.us/. For more information about this, please contact the Department of Housing & Community Development at **617-573-1100**. If you are interested in applying for vouchers or federal public housing, please contact the Walpole Housing Authority located at 8 Diamond Street at **508-668-7878** or visit www.walpolehousing.org.

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, in collaboration with the Walpole Council on Aging and School Nutrition Department, is providing the delivery of food and essential non-food items to Walpole residents on a bi-weekly basis. If you are in need of food and wish to place an order, [click here to order online](#) or call the Council on Aging at **508-668-3330** on Monday or Tuesday each week and a representative will take your order and set up a delivery date.

The Walpole School Nutrition Department, working together with the Walpole Food Pantry, will provide any family who has a child or children that receive Free or Reduce Meal benefits the opportunity to receive free foods. These alternative food items will be available in place of meals that would have been provided via the schools' meal program, offering the added benefit of expanding a family's access to food. For information about this program please contact the School Nutrition Department at **774-315-5640** or email wpsnutrition@walpole.k12.ma.us.

At this time, the Walpole Community Food Pantry is not accepting donations of food or non-food items. They are, however, accepting financial donations toward the costs of ordering and delivering food and other food items from the Greater Boston Food Bank, in order to continue serving the residents of Walpole that are in need. For more information or to make a contribution, visit www.wcpf.org.

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). Due to the volume DUA is experiencing at this time, the fastest way to process a claim is online, [which remains fully operational](#).

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.



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 physically closed through April 3, 2020, however they are still open for intakes and available to help. Please call 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 Jon Cogan at **508-668-7325** or email jcogan@walpole-ma.gov.

VA Boston Community Clinics have moved to 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**.

Additionally, the **Massachusetts Military Support Foundation** is working to provide 50,000 vital food kits to veterans who have limited access to food due to COVID-19. Volunteers will staff two tractor trailers at Gillette Stadium weekdays beginning Tuesday, March 31 through Friday, April 10 from 10:00AM to 2:00PM. Please follow signage around the stadium and come to Lot 5 where food will be delivered directly to your car. Please reach out to DonnaBaldwin@mmsfi.org for questions or more information.

SERVICES FOR ELDERS

Outreach services continue to be available through the **Walpole Council on Aging**. Please call **508-668-3330**. Messages are checked regularly. Please note, many staff members are working remotely and return calls may be made from a private or blocked caller.

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 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 still 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

Call 2-1-1

Take care of your emotional health and help others do the same. If you need emotional support during these stressful times, call **2-1-1** and choose the "CALL2TALK" option.

Samaritans

During this unprecedented time, it can feel overwhelming to receive constant messages about COVID-19. Call or text the Samaritans Helpline anytime at **877-870-4673**. Its 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

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.

During this time, we will be offering 1-on-1 phone support and virtual support meetings via zoom. This service is available to anyone in recovery or the desire to be in recovery. We are also available to friends, family members, and loved ones who are impacted by substance use disorder.

Our phone number is **508-668-3960**. Please leave a message with your name and phone number and we will return your call. Also connect with us through Facebook, where you will find our upcoming virtual meetings. Please feel free to send us a message and we will respond promptly. Visit the [Turning Point Recovery Support Center Face Book Page here.](#)

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](#)



'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 Chairman on a case-by-case basis. Approved individuals will be contacted with further instruction on how to register their child for Recreation programming.

Smiling Eyes will contribute a maximum of \$75 worth of Recreation programming per child per season (see application), not to exceed \$300 per year. 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	Natalie Pina Counselor	Kara Patterson Counselor	Lauren Tilton Counselor	Carly Callaghan Counselor	Sarah Giunta Counselor	Katie Gingras Counselor	Jennifer Dolan 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**
508-921-1028

**Junior Women's Club of
Walpole**
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