

Gaston County School Social Workers Resource Guide for Families During COVID-19

This information is provided in an effort to assist our families and students during the crisis. The information listed has been compiled from various resource listings. The availability of resources and/or requirements may change. Please check with the individual agencies for updates. Gaston County Schools is not an affiliate of the majority of these listings. However, we want our students and families to be aware of the assistance available should there be a need. You may also contact your student's school to discuss any additional needs you may have with the School Social Worker.

211

NC 2-1-1 (or CALL 888-892-1162) is an information and referral service that families and individuals can call to obtain free and confidential information on *health and human services resources* within their community. NC 2-1-1 operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year and resources are available in most languages.

Child Care

Child Care Resources

Are you a working parent who can't work from home, or has your child care program had to close due to the COVID-19 outbreak? We can help! We are tracking child care closures & programs with additional capacity. Our services are free. Call us at **1-855-327-5933**.

<https://www.childcareservices.org/families/fs/finding/>

Diapers & Formula

Crisis Pregnancy Center, 700 Robinson Rd., Gastonia, NC 28056, 704-867-3706

We have diapers of all sizes and formula. Everything is free. We are now doing curbside service only. We will be open 8:30 am - 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. No ID required. You can return once weekly until the crisis is over.

Evictions

As of March 13, 2020, North Carolina will stop eviction and foreclosure hearings for the next 30 days.

Food

- *Crisis Assistance Ministry, 805 W. Airline Avenue, Gastonia, NC*
 - Call 704-867-8901 to request an appointment (food)
- *First Baptist Church, 308 S. Rhyne St., Dallas, NC*
 - Free bag lunch, Monday to Friday, 11:30am to 12:30pm until 3/27/20
- *Mt. Zion Restoration Church, 2311 Crescent Lane, Gastonia, NC*
 - Wednesdays 8am-11am: Drive-Thru Food Pantry
- *McDonald's Restaurant, 505 N. Main St., Belmont, NC*
 - Free meals for student's 12 and under, Monday to Friday, 11am to 1pm until 03/27/20 or while school closures continue
- *McDonald's Restaurant, 2015 Union Rd., Gastonia, NC*

- Free meals for student's 12 and under, Monday to Friday, 11am to 1pm until 03/27/20 or while school closures continue
- *Mt. Zion Restoration Church, 2311 Crescent Ln., Gastonia, NC 28052*
 - Drive Thru Food Drive on 3/25/20 from 8 am to 12 noon

"Grab and Go" meal program begins Tuesday, March 17

Gaston County Schools will provide "grab and go" meals for students beginning Tuesday, March 17. This service offers a nutritious meal for children while schools are closed because of concerns related to the coronavirus. (For more information and pick up sites see GCS website)

Food - Pantries

Salvation Army, 1017 N. Broad St., Gastonia, NC, 704-867-6145

- Monday to Thursday from 9am to around 11:30am.
- Walk-in: Receptionist said clients just need to have a photo ID.

B.R.E.A.D. Inc., 161-B W. Franklin Blvd., Gastonia, NC, 704-854-9221

- Tuesday and Thursday between 9am and 12pm.
- Voicemail/online: New clients take photo ID, proof of financial income and expenses, names of people in the household.
- Weekly assistance: bread and drinks.
- Once a month assistance: groceries, bread, and drinks.

New Covenant Food Distribution Center, 631 E. 1st St. Gastonia, NC 704-865-7729

- Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30am to 1:00pm.
- Appointment needed? Website does not say, but the resource guide does.

Mt. Zion Restoration Church - Bountiful Blessings Food Pantry, 2311 Crescent Lane, Gastonia, NC, 704-864-8616

- Wednesdays from 8am to 11am.
- Due to pandemic, they are currently doing it as "drive-thru".
- "Walk-in" individuals/families just show up - no need for referral or appointment.

S.O.C.K.S., Inc., 160 Woodlawn St., Belmont, NC, 704-827-8780

- Monday to Friday from 10am to 1pm, closed on Wednesday.
- Must be residents from the North Belmont, Springwood area.
- "Walk-in" individuals/families just show up - no need for referral or appointment.
- Verification/Documentation required: Photo ID.
- Resident/client can go once every two months.

Food - Soup Kitchens

Gastonia Street Ministry, 416 W. Main Ave. Gastonia, NC

- Free soup kitchen (no fee).
- Provided everyday (Monday - Sunday) after the service at 8pm.
- Provide groceries and hygiene bags every night.

Helping Agencies

Belmont Community Organization, 91 E. Catawba St., Belmont, NC, 704-825-4526

- Belmont area only.

- Food, clothing, medicine, furniture/household, & utility bills.
- Open M-F, 9 am - 1 pm.

Bessemer City Crisis Center, 315 E. Virginia Ave., Bessemer City, NC, 704-629-2147

- Monday to Friday; Monday 10am to 2pm (by appointments only); Tuesday to Friday from 10am to 4pm.
- Client has to go to the store and fill out an application.
- *They must be a Bessemer City resident.*
- Assistance provided with water bill, power bill, and medicine.
- Verification/documentation they must provide: ID for every individual in the home, Social Security card of every individual in the home, proof of income, and proof of address (water bill, lease agreement).
- It is free - no small fee.
- For individuals ages 65 years and under, they can go once every three months. For individual ages 65 and over, they can go once every month.

Cherryville Area Ministries, 212 N. Mountain St., Cherryville, NC, 704-435-3816

- Only for residents in Cherryville.
- Verification/documentation they must provide: photo ID for all over 21 in the home, Social Security card for all in the home, proof of income and proof of address for all over 21 in the home.
- Rental assistance: rental/lease agreement must be taken as documentation.
- Assistance with food, clothing, utilities, gas, medication, and rental assistance.

Crisis Assistance Ministry, 805 W. Airline Ave., Gastonia, NC, 704-867-8901

- Hours of operation: 9am to 2pm Monday to Thursday; closed on Friday and weekends.
- Based on a first come, first serve basis.
- Only for Gastonia residents.
- Verification/documentation they must provide: Photo ID, Social Security card of everyone in the home, and for those who work, a month's pay stub.
- Individuals/Families have to go in person.
- Depending on what they are needing assistance in, dictates how often they are able to get weekly/monthly assistance from the agency.

Dallas/High Shoals Christian Ministry, 305 E. Trade St., Dallas, NC, 704-922-1236

- Food distribution will occur outside in a drive-thru manner.
- Food, hygiene, and monetary donations are accepted to provide to customers. No clothing or household donations accepted at the moment due to pandemic.
- Hours of operation: Tuesday/Friday from 9am to 12pm; Wednesday/Thursday from 2pm to 6pm .
- Facebook page information: Does not limit how many times you can get food assistance, nothing is needed to get food from them during this time.
- All Gaston County residents can receive food.

Greater Gaston Baptist Association, 1607 Rankin Lake Rd., Gastonia, NC, 704-867-0905

- Monday to Thursday from 8am to 4pm.
- Assistance with food and clothing only.
- Website information: food and clothing given from 9am to 11:30am by appointment only.

Mt. Holly Community Relief Organization (CRO), 2120 Spring St., Mt. Holly, NC 704-827-0450

- *Website information:*

- Hours of operation: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9am to 12:30pm.
- Provides short term emergency assistance to solve crises.
- Training is offered in various areas - budgeting, interviewing skills, nutrition, goal setting.
- Assistance with food, financial, and pharmacy.
- *Residents of the City of Mount Holly only.*
- Food: The individual requesting assistance must be the head of household, provide proof of crisis and income verification.
- Financial: Personal interview and assessment procedure are done.
 - o The CRO provides financial assistance for rent/mortgage, utilities, water, and heating fuel. Assist people in obtaining affordable housing through rent and utility deposit assistance.
 - o Persons seeking financial assistance will undergo an interview process to determine the need, available resources, involvement of other agencies, and a plan to move them towards relative independence.
 - o Documentation required for interview: Photo ID; Proof of crisis (ex. proof of hospitalization, doctor's note, car repair bill, etc.); Proof of household income for last and current month; As many bills and receipts from last and current month as possible to show how the household money has been spent; Rent/mortgage, utility bill information (late notice, cut-off notice, and/or eviction notice); Deposit information (Have Section 8 housing, must take proof of the inspection.); If receiving disability benefits and have a payee assigned, the payee needs to be with them for the interview; Written prescription or prescription bottle with refills still available if seeking medication assistance. CRO does fill prescriptions for insured individuals and we do not fill any controlled substance prescriptions.

Internet

Charter Spectrum Offering

- Free high-speed internet service up to 100 Mbps for 60 days, beginning March 16, to households that do not already have a broadband subscription and have children in grades K-12 or in college. Standard installation included.
- For eligible low-income households without school-aged children, Charter continues to offer Spectrum Internet Assist, a low-cost broadband program delivering speeds of 30 Mbps.
- Charter will open its Wi-Fi hotspots across our footprint for public use.
- Contact: 844-488-8395

Additional Internet Service Providers

<https://www.ncbroadband.gov/covid19broadband/>

Mental Health

Partners Behavioral Health

If you feel like you need help with your mental health, call us at **1-888-235-HOPE (4673)**. We can help you find out what is bothering you, and connect you with a behavioral health care professional.

Rent Assistance

United Way has a community relief fund for Covid-19. They can assist with bills, rent, and food. 1-866-211-9966.

Shelter

Given how quickly the situation is evolving with Covid-19, it may be best to call 211 if you are in need of shelter. They can direct you accordingly. However, here is information on some of the shelters based on what we know at this time (3/24/20):

Catherine's House, 704-825-9599

- Women and children.

Family Promise, 980-283-7160

- Families.

The Salvation Army, 704-867-6145

Due to pandemic:

- They are working to limit exposure.
- *Are keeping programs open for as long as they can to assist people.*
- Residents and staff are following CDC guidelines until further notice, such as wearing gloves and cleaning regularly.
- Normal hours (nothing different right now).
- Daily Meals Hours (Monday to Friday) are the same. Only difference is for the non-residents eating at 5:30pm, they are being handed a plate to take with them - they cannot eat at the Salvation Army to limit exposure.
- Intake Hours: Monday to Friday from 1pm to 3pm.
 - o Housing: Started doing drug testing because it moves availability for families
 - o Emergency shelter
 - Intake process (background check)
 - Start with entry program of 30 days- 60 days - 90 days
- Provide assistance with food, clothing, rent, and utilities.
 - o For rent and utilities, it is based on *funding availability*. Individuals have to call the Salvation Army to verify that there is still funding available. If so, they have to go on either Wednesday or Thursday and sign in to receive funds.

Women's Shelter, 704-852-6000

Due to pandemic:

- Regularly cleaning.
- Residents are signing in and out by phone.
- Not limiting the number of families in the shelter because of the pandemic, they're just taking extra precautions.
- Normal hours (nothing different right now).
- All individuals who call, have an intake process. For those that do get into the shelter, they do a safety plan and additional resources/services in the shelter. For those that *do not* get into the shelter, also do a safety plan and are given additional information about other shelters and resources in the community.

Taxes

Tax filing date moved to July 15, 2020.

Unemployment

You can apply for NC benefits online 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If you need help, contact the Customer Call Center at 888-737-0259, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

How to apply for unemployment: <https://des.nc.gov/apply-unemployment/before-you-apply>

Here's where you can submit your application:

<https://des.nc.gov/apply-unemployment/filing-your-unemployment-application>

A Parent's Guide to Google Classroom: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Iowi-gmbys>

Gaston County Public Library WOW card: Every GCS student has access to the Gaston County Public Library digital resources with their WOW card. There is a tutorial on the website to help those that don't remember their number to figure it out.

HOMELESSNESS

Supporting Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness during the COVID-19 Outbreak: Questions to Consider [Resource from the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness]

<https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/covid19-and-homelessness/>

Websites for Resources in Surrounding Counties

For McKinney-Vento families residing in Cleveland County

<https://www.teamccs.org/coronavirus>

For McKinney-Vento families residing in Gaston County

<https://www.gaston.k12.nc.us/grabandgomeals>

For McKinney-Vento families residing in Lincoln County food distribution information

<https://www.lcsnc.org/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=4&ModuleInstanceID=25867&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=44525&PageID=1>