

# COVID-19 Relief Resource Guide

For the latest information about COVID-19 in Florida, please visit <https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/> or call the Florida Department of Health 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 1-866-779-6121 (TEXT ALert: FLCOVID19 to 888777)

Disclaimer: The lists below are not all-inclusive, but are intended to give you a great deal of guidance. There may be changes to service provider's policies and programs before the next Resource Guide is published. Please contact the service providers by phone to receive the most up to date information. (Rev. 05/15/2020).



## Testing Site

**Hardee County Health Department** is providing free drive up COVID-19 testing.

When: Monday & Tuesday May 18th & 19th 2020 from 9am - 3pm.

Hardee County residents are eligible.

Pre-registration is REQUIRED.

For questions of eligibility and to register please call (863)773-4161. Limited availability.

## Quarantine and Isolation Help

**Hardee County Emergency Management Office** - Contact the Hardee County Emergency Management Office at 863-773-6373 if you are a Hardee County resident that has been tested for COVID-19 and waiting results. Wrap-around services are available for you and your household.

**Hardee Help Center** - Additional wrap-around services are available through the Hardee Help Center for those who have been tested for COVID-19 and waiting results. Individuals are encouraged to contact the Emergency Management office first, if possible.

## Economic Relief Assistance

**Housing Questions** - Florida Rural Legal Services can educate you about your rights as tenants, negotiating settlements on your behalf, and providing representation in court. Contact them at 1-888-582-3410, If a farmworker please call them at 855-771-3077, or by website <https://www.frls.org/services-provided/housing/>

**Rent** - Many won't be able to pay rent because of COVID-19. Use the FREE tool at NoRent.org to take action by writing a letter to your landlord. <https://www.norent.org/en/>

**Utility Assistance** - Contact your utility provider. Many utility providers are providing courtesy extensions, waiving credit card fees, or suspending disconnection.

**Mortgage Assistance** - Contact your mortgage servicer. Talk to your mortgage lender right away and tell them your situation. Disaster Relief does not eliminate your responsibility to pay your mortgage, however your lender may be willing to issue a forbearance on mortgage payments at no costs, and with no credit implications.

### Hardee Help Center

*United Way of Central FL Community Partner & Salvation Army Wauchula Service Unit*

713 E Bay Street, Wauchula, 863-773-0034

Mon - Fri; 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM (Lunch 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM) -

Contact By Phone or Email ([applications@hardeehelpcenter.com](mailto:applications@hardeehelpcenter.com))

### No Walk-Ins.

**Office Staff working mobile on Mondays.**

**Paper applications available at the front door.**

**On-line applications available at**

**[www.hardeehelpcenter.com/disasterrelief](http://www.hardeehelpcenter.com/disasterrelief)**

### Alpha & Omega Freedom Ministries (Rent, Utilities)

102 W Carlton Street, Wauchula, 863-773-5717

Mon - Fri; 9am - 4pm

**Doors are locked. Please do not touch doors.**

**Reemployment Assistance Paper Applications Available**

**Information can be sent via email or online, please call the office.**

### Step Up Suncoast (Electric)

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program

941-827-0188 ext. 7900 or 863-261-8604 (Hardee/Desoto)

202 N 6th Ave, Wauchula

**Complete a phone interview, call 863-225-9963**

### St. Michael Catholic Church (Case by Case)

863-222-3198

Outreach Center, Wauchula

**Limited hours, call first**

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# Food Relief Assistance

## ACCESS (Food Stamps/Medicaid)

(Florida Department of Children and Families Automated Community Connection to Economic Self Sufficiency) - **The storefront is closed.** To apply for food assistance (SNAP), cash assistance (TANF) or Medicaid, individuals should go to <https://www.myflorida.com/accessflorida/>. Clients logging in to the ACCESS Self-Service Portal should go to <https://www.myfloridacom/accessflorida/>. Customers are required to complete an interview to receive benefits (Suspended as of 4/1/2020). Customers should call 850-300-4323 (TTY 1-800-955-8771) to complete an interview telephonically. Customers can order an EBT card, get information about EBT transactions, or report an EBT card as lost or stolen at <https://www.myflorida.com/accessflorida/> or by calling 1-888-356-3281.

## Hardee County School Boards

**Lunch distribution at select schools.**

[Find a Summer Breakspot](#)

## NU-Hope Elder Care Services | Tel: 863-773-2022

**Congregate Meals Temporarily Suspended.**

**Delivery of Frozen Meals Available. Call the office to register.**

## Alpha & Omega Freedom Ministries | Tel: 863-773-5717

If you want the food pantry you may walk up to the rollup garage door on grapefruit street side Wednesdays from 10 am to noon. Please maintain 6ft from other clients or workers. If you are elderly or have underlying conditions, please wear a mask. If you do not have one, one may be provided for you if you ask up front.

102 Carlton Street, Wauchula, 33873

**Requirements:** Register & Identification

**Hours:** Wednesday ONLY 10am - 12pm

## Bowling Green Church of God | Tel: 863-375-2231

121 W. Broward, Bowling Green, FL 33834

**Requirements:** Identification

**Hours:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month 8am-12pm

## Cutting Edge Food Ministry | Tel: 863-773-2484

3059 Elm Street, Zolfo Springs, FL 33890

**Regular Operations:** Tuesdays 9am - 12 noon

**Requirements:** Register (Physical Address)

**NO drive thru Distribution 5/12/2020**

**Call the Administrative office if there is an emergency situation.**

**Food Box for verified situations of loss of job, call office.**

## First United Methodist Church of Wauchula

| Tel: 863-773-4267

**Wed. Night Community Dinner Temporarily Suspended**

207 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, Wauchula, FL 33873

**Hours:** Bagged Lunch: M, W, F; 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Feed My Sheep: 2nd & 4th Thursdays 9am - 1pm

**Requirements:** Registration

## New Jerusalem Church of God | Tel: 863-781-0982

**NO CHANGES as of 3/18/2020**

1514 Lincoln St, Wauchula, FL 33873

**Requirements:** Proof of Residency

**Hours:** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month 11am - 1pm

## St. Michael's Catholic Church Food Pantry | Tel: 863-773-4089

**Drive thru distribution.**

408 Heard Bridge Rd, Wauchula, FL 33873

**Requirements:** Identification or Light Bill

**Hours:** Every Saturday 7am - 8:45am

## Hardee Help Center | Tele: 863-773-0034

**Paper registration available by the front door. On-line registration is available.**

*United Way of Central FL Community Partner & Salvation Army Wauchula Service Unit*

713 E Bay Street, Wauchula

Mon - Fri; 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM - Client Welcome Center & Pantry Hours effective Monday, March 30

Tues / Thurs; Noon - Hot Lunch available to Homeless People (Registration required)

Register on-line at <https://www.hardeehelpcenter.org/disaster-relief>

# HOMELESSNESS ASSISTANCE

## Shelter

- Caring People Ministries - 863-781-8218 5207 - Doyle Parker Ave., Bowling Green

## Other

- Hardee Help Center - 863-773-0034 - 713 E. Bay Street, Wauchula
  - Phone access available to submit food stamp applications via-phone.
  - Essential items available (i.e. hand sanitizer, masks, soap, food bag).
  - Tues / Thurs; Noon - Hot Lunch available to Homeless People (Registration required)
  - Bikes and bike vouchers

# OTHER

## Childcare

- Early Learning Coalition releasing their new "Temporary Assistance" for First Responders (*personnel in law enforcement, fire & rescue, emergency medical, emergency mgmt., corrections, 911 call centers, etc.*) & Healthcare (*personnel in public health, hospitals, laboratories, nursing homes, home health, clinics, etc.*)  
941.255.1650/ and 863.314.9213 or email: [cs@elcfh.org](mailto:cs@elcfh.org).

## Government

- **GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS, COVID-19** - Here's a MEGA list of governmental agencies responding to coronavirus (COVID-19). (<https://www.usa.gov/coronavirus>)
- **HARDEE COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**  
Follow on Facebook for up to date information: <https://www.facebook.com/HardeeEOC/>  
Address: 404 W Orange St, Wauchula, FL 33873  
Phone: (863) 773-9390
- **HARDEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
Mobile app offers CDC alerts and information relating to COVID-19. Download the free app by searching "Hardee Sheriff" on the app store and follow their Facebook Page for further updates and information.
- **HARDEE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
If you're a business and not already following [Hardee County Chamber of Commerce](https://www.hardeecc.com/covid-19-resources.html) - you're likely missing out on several economic relief opportunities. See <https://www.hardeecc.com/covid-19-resources.html>
- **HARDEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER OFFICES**  
The Hardee County Board of County Commissioner Offices are closed to the public. For further information on each department, please visit [www.hardeecounty.net](http://www.hardeecounty.net).

## Jobs

- |  |  |                             |
|--|--|-----------------------------|
| • <a href="#">CareerSource</a>                   | • <a href="#">Career Source Polk - Walmart</a> | • <a href="#">AAF Fland</a> |
| • <a href="#">Rita Staffing - Warehouse</a>      | • <a href="#">Lakeland Regional Health</a>     |                             |
| • <a href="#">Career Source Polk - Warehouse</a> | • <a href="#">Cutrale</a>                      |                             |

Source: [https://heartlandforchildren.org/covid-19\\_resources](https://heartlandforchildren.org/covid-19_resources)

- [A Better Balance](#) - A free helpline (call or email) that offers answers to questions about the law for workers facing issues at work related to sick, family, or medical leave.
- **Reemployment Assistance (previously known as reemployment assistance insurance)** - visit [www.FloridaJobs.org](http://www.FloridaJobs.org) and click on Reemployment Assistance Service Center. [Paper applications are available on-line and at local agencies.](#)

## Know Your Resources

- **United Way 2-1-1**: You can access 2-1-1 by phone, email, chat or text (just text your zip code to 898-211). Reaching out will get you connected to a multilingual 2-1-1 specialist in your area who can put you in touch with local organizations providing critical services to improve and save lives. You can access information about: Local Food Banks And Nutrition Programs, Emergency Housing Assistance

- **Aunt Bertha:** The Social Care Network: You can access Aunt Bertha online at <https://www.auntbertha.com>
- **Eldercare Locator:** is a public service of the U.S. Administration on Aging connecting people to services for older adults and their families. They can be reached at 1-800-677-1116 or online: <https://eldercare.acl.gov/Public/Index.aspx>

## **Internet**

- [Comcast Internet Essentials](#), a low-cost internet package for qualifying individuals and households, is now available for free for the first two months. Comcast Internet Essentials package includes two months of free in-home internet and then a cost of \$9.95 a month: [www.internetessentials.com](http://www.internetessentials.com). Once you are an Internet Essentials customer, you have the option to purchase a laptop or desktop computer at a discounted price.
- [Access from AT&T](#) is a low-cost home internet package for qualifying individuals and households (no special for COVID-19 but still available at a low cost).
- Get access to free [Spectrum WiFi hotspots](#). Spectrum is offering free in-home internet access for 60 days to K-12 and college students who do not already have a current subscription. To enroll, call 1-844-488-8395. Installation fees are being waived for new-student households. Find one near you go to: <https://www.spectrum.com/free-wifi-hotspots/florida>
- Xfinity WiFi offers free WiFi hotspots. Visit <https://wifi.xfinity.com/> and enter your address information to see a list of nearby free WiFi hotspots.
- To see if you qualify for a low-cost internet hotspot please use this link: <https://www.pcsforpeople.org/low-cost-internet/>

## **Local Stores / Local Senior Shopping Hours**

### **WAUCHULA**

- |                                 |                         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Walmart - 773-6419            | Tuesdays from 6am - 7am |
| • Family Dollar - 773-5051      | Daily from 8am - 9am    |
| • Winn-Dixie - 767-0206         | Daily from 8am - 9am    |
| • Dollar General - 941-348-1080 | Daily from 8am - 9am    |
| • CVS - 767-1195                |                         |
| • Save A Lot - 863-767-1866     | Daily from 8am - 9am    |
| • Dollar Tree                   | Daily from 8am - 9am    |

### **BOWLING GREEN**

- |                                 |                      |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| • Dollar General - 813-370-0726 | Daily from 7am - 8am |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|

### **ZOLFO SPRINGS**

Dollar General - 813-565-0190      Daily from 7am - 8am

## **Mental Health**

- Peace River Center's crisis services nonprofit's 24/7 hotline is providing crisis and mental health services to those feeling anxious or stressed by COVID-19. The hotline can be reached by calling 863-519-3744 or toll-free at 800-627-5906.

## **Price Gouging**

- Report price gouging at 866-966-7226 or at [www.myfloridalegal.com](http://www.myfloridalegal.com).

