CSO is now accepting applications for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program for residents of Northumberland and Montour Counties.

Residents of Montour County please call 570-293-1180.
Residents of Northumberland County dial 570-644-6575 ext. 171.

Individuals and households impacted directly or indirectly by the COVID-19 pandemic may be eligible for assistance with rent & utilities. Due to an increase in income limits, more people than usual will qualify. The income limits & available funding are different for residents of each county.

Please visit our website where you will find all the information, including packets for landlords. **CLICK NOW.**

---

**MONTOUR COUNTY**

**NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY**
Community Needs Assessment

The more we know about our local community the better help we can provide.

This Community Needs Assessment is an important tool used in identifying deficiencies in services to families & individuals.

We use the answers gathered from this survey are used to plan strategies to work to close service gaps. The goal is to improve self-sufficiency through effective & meaningful programs.

There are two different assessment surveys. One for individuals & families to complete & the other for agencies' needs.

Assessment link for individuals & families
Assessment link for service providers

May is Community Action Month!

May is Community Action Month and Central Susquehanna Opportunities, Inc. is a proud member of the Community Action Partnership, the national hub that links the nation’s 1,000+ local Community Action Agencies and State Associations to each other. CSO is also one of the 42 Community Action Agencies across 66 counties in Pennsylvania. Learn more about the Community Action Association of PA by visiting the website here.

Community Action Agencies began in 1964 after President Lyndon B. Johnson declared a War on Poverty. Community Action Agencies connect individuals and families to opportunities allowing them to transform their lives by gaining economic stability. CSO is the local Community Action Agency working to bridge service gaps preventing families from being successful.

CSO operates programming in Columbia, Montour, and Northumberland counties. All services help individuals move from poverty to self-sufficiency. Our caseworkers provide guidance, support, and encouragement focused on alleviating the conditions of poverty and assisting those who are experiencing financial hardships in meeting their basic needs including housing, food, utility,
transportation, budgeting, and financial literacy.

CSO is active in several community initiatives such as county coalitions, collaborative efforts to fight the local opioid epidemic, and economic and revitalization groups. We partner with local organizations and businesses to provide education on poverty, exchange skills, knowledge, and experience to strengthen the community.

**The Greater Susquehanna Valley United Way** collaborates with CSO with various initiatives, several times every year. President/CEO, Joanne Troutman talks about this partnership in the link below.

As the Community Action Agency for Northumberland, Columbia, and Montour Counties, CSO strives to remain true to its mission of providing opportunities, empowering families, and strengthening local communities.

From the beginning of January 2021 until May 6, CSO served 3,907 individuals in three counties. In this time frame, a total of 15,821 services were provided. Depending on their circumstances, individuals can qualify for more than one service simultaneously.

Even though Community Action Month ends on May 31, CSO is here every day for the community with the ultimate goal of helping individuals and families reach and maintain self-sufficiency.
Success Story

Jeff is a resident of Northumberland County who works in the construction industry. He came face-to-face with homeowners daily; until the COVID outbreak came along. Customers did not feel comfortable having anyone coming into their homes and Jeff found himself without a steady income.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, he was living job-to-job. He said, “I used my money from job to job and paid my bills the same way, as they came in.” Before long with no money coming in, Jeff found himself months behind on his rent payments.

Fortunately, he was referred to CSO and applied for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program and the funding Jeff received allowed him to pay the back rent he owed. “I don’t know what I would have done without the program. It got my rent up-to-date. Because, no matter what, my rent still comes every month- regardless of any virus.”

Staff Spotlight
Sandy Winhofer
Community Action Supervisor
CAA Office in Shamokin
12 years with CSO

Sandy’s enthusiasm to make our area a better place to live, work, & play shows in her commitment to supporting her customers as they improve & prosper.

Sandy loves
• Her family
• Socializing
• Dancing & laughing
• Wine
• Sports

Unlimited funds? She would spread the wealth to family & help the community!

Outside of CSO, she makes wine, camps at Fantasy Island Campground, does puzzles & watches sports!

Her parents inspired her to have a positive attitude in life & a strong work ethic.

"I enjoy providing a wide array of services. I appreciate that CSO evolves & adapts to changes in the best interest of our area."
Ashley Hackenberg
CSBG Case Manager

She loves getting to help people every day—in big or small ways!

She is married with two children, two dogs, & a cat. They keep her busy every day!

She loves to craft, travel, do home improvements, read, & the Penguins.

“My family inspires me every day” ♥

If she had millions of dollars, Ashley would rescue as many shelter dogs as she could.

Ashley's superpower would be flying, so she could see the world!
CSO needs volunteers for the upcoming fresh food pantries! Friday, May 14 & 28 are the upcoming dates.

Helping with these distributions is a rewarding experience, in a lively atmosphere, that benefits everyone. This a beneficial experience for individuals, groups, or students looking for community service opportunities.

Please call 570-644-6575 ext. 174 to get started.

---

**Vaccine Clinics**

CSO partnered with *Greater Susquehanna Valley United Way, Custom Care Pharmacy*, and *Northumberland County Area Agency on Aging* to coordinate two vaccine clinics.

The first clinics were held at the Northumberland County Aging Office at 322 N. 2nd St., Sunbury & at the CSO building, 2 E. Arch St., Shamokin. Everyone who received vaccines was scheduled for their follow-up appointments before leaving.
Geisinger anesthesiologist students & Luzerne Community College nursing students administered the vaccines. Over 300 vaccines were administered on both days. Staff from CSO, UW, NCAA, and the community volunteered to help the clinics run smoothly.

---

**CSO CARES Memorial Fund**

Did you know you can honor your loved ones with a donation to CSO? With each donation we will personalize & issue a card in memory of your loved one & in recognition of your donation.

- There is no minimum amount, payment is accepted by check or PayPal.
- You can get the *Memorial Donation* form [here](#).
- All donations go toward **CSO CARES** to help local families in need.

---

**In Conclusion...**

**REGISTER FOR THE 16TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT!**

CSO’S **16th Golf Tournament** will be held Monday, July 12, 2021, at the Frosty Valley Country Club. The event takes place rain or shine.

We are currently looking for sponsors, donations of prizes, and of course, **GOLFERS**! There are several levels of sponsorship available and all sponsors will be recognized during the day.

Sign-up your team of four today. Your cost includes coffee & donuts, greens fee & cart, lunch, on-course refreshments, dinner, & chances to win prizes!
Download the brochure [here](#). Fill in the golfer registration form and mail it with a check to CSO, Inc. c/o Golf Classic, 2 E. Arch St., Shamokin, PA 17872. You can also register to golf & pay your fee online [here](#).

---

![CSO 16th Annual Golf Tournament](image)

**SAVE THE DATE**

July 12, 2021

**CSO 16th Annual Golf Tournament**

Frosty Valley Country Club
Danville, PA

---

**Thriving Individuals, Thriving Families, Thriving Communities**

Provide Opportunities. Empower People. Strengthen Communities.

---

[Visit our Website](#)

---

| **CSO/Central Susquehanna Opportunities, Inc.** |
| 2 E. Arch Street, Shamokin, PA 17872 |
| 570-644-6575 X171 | [www.csocares.org](http://www.csocares.org) |

---

**STAY CONNECTED**