



## CSO Connections Newsletter

### GOOD NEWS

#### PHFA CARES Rent Relief Deadline Extended!

#### *Applications Accepted Until November 4*

Renters who were financially impacted by the economic slowdown related to the coronavirus pandemic can now get CARES financial assistance to help with the payment of past-due rent. People who lost income due to the pandemic-related economic slowdown may be eligible for rent assistance to help them stay in their homes.

Renters who qualify the CARES Rent Relief Program may receive assistance equal to 100% of their monthly rent up to \$750 a month for a maximum of six months of assistance for the period between March 1 and December 31, 2020. Payments will be made to their landlord on their behalf. Renters or landlords can apply for rent relief for apartment tenants.

CSO has been designated the lead agency by both the Northumberland County and Columbia County commissioners for processing applications for their counties' residents.

The three applications you need are available on our website: [\*\*Central Susquehanna Opportunities, Inc.\*\*](#) You will have to provide proof of income and residence.

You can get an [\*\*application checklist\*\*](#) and a [\*\*Frequently Asked Question\*\*](#) sheet so you know what to have on hand while applying.

All materials must be submitted together and can be mailed to either:

Central Susquehanna Opportunities, Inc.  
2 E. Arch St., Shamokin, PA 17872

Or: Central Susquehanna Opportunities, Inc.  
36 E. Main St., Bloomsburg, PA 17815

Learn more about the program by visiting the [PHFA website](#).

## CSO can help with the application process 570-644-6575 ext. 171



## Be Healthy- Stay Safe!



With flu season right around the corner and COVID-19 season not ending any time soon, cleaning and disinfecting is more important than ever. CSO provided essential supplies to local individuals and families to help prevent the spread of both viruses.

Staff from CSO gave bags containing two rolls of paper towels, spray disinfectant, hand soap, hand wipes, and two face masks to residents at several locations during the past few weeks. Keeping surfaces and objects clean and

disinfected lowers the numbers of germs, minimizing the risk of spreading germs. Frequent hand washing is also an effective way to protect from yourself from becoming sick.

Top photograph is **Sarah Johnson**, at the Danville Area Diaper Bank, Christ Episcopal Church, and bottom is **Becky Stender** at the LCBC Church in Bloomsburg. The no-cost cleaning supplies were also distributed by CSO staff at PA Representative David Millard's office, Bloomsburg. Upcoming distributions will be at AGAPE, in Bloomsburg and The Jubilee Kitchen, Trinity Lutheran Church, in Danville.



## Workshops Open to the Public NO COST & VIRTUAL



### Landlords & Tenants

- What to look for when looking for a new home
- Questions to ask your landlord
- Your rights as a renter
- Renter's insurance



### Credit Reports/ID Theft

- Ins & outs of credit reporting
- Learn to fix & boost credit score
- What to do if you become a victim

Every month, CSO is offering a wide variety of workshops that are open to the public at no cost. Check our [website](#) every month to see what is offered.

**For registration call our  
Financial Instructor: 570-644-6575 ext. 113**

**CSO & Penn State Extension are offering free online  
[NUTRITION LINKS](#) programs for money-saving tips & recipes.**

**Call or text: Cyndi at 570-556-4742**



**PennState Extension**

An OUTREACH program of the College of Agricultural Sciences



**CSO is offering Free Online NUTRITION LINKS Programs to Learn Money Saving Tips and Recipes!**

This is a Free Workshop Series for parents and grandparents with children (receiving WIC/SNAP/Food Pantry Giveaways/Free and Reduced School Meals) to discuss ways to save at the store while improving your family's budget and health. Different weekly topics. Drop-in for one or complete the series and receive a bag of kitchen tools and a Penn State Extension Certificate. Bring a friend.

**\*BY ATTENDING THE WHOLE ONLINE SERIES (6 meetings and two surveys) YOU WILL RECEIVE A REUSABLE SHOPPING BAG WITH A VEGETABLE PEELER, MAGNETIC SHOPPING LIST, MEASURING CUPS, COOKBOOK, CUTTING BOARD, FOOD THERMOMETER, REFRIGERATOR THERMOMETER, GRADUATION CERTIFICATE, AND MORE.\***

Where: Zoom: <https://psu.zoom.us/j/5705564742> (on ZOOM app enter Meeting ID 5705564742), OR join by phone, call 570-556-4742, 15 minutes before class time to get the special meeting dial-in number.

When: Thursdays, 9:00-10:00 AM or 6:00-7:00 PM

Questions: Text or call: Cyndi Clayton 570-556-4742, email [cac53@psu.edu](mailto:cac53@psu.edu)

**Participants Will:**

- Learn how to cook low-cost healthy meals.
- Find tips to keep your kitchen and food safe.
- Become skilled meal planners and shoppers.
- Learn how to read food labels to buy the best foods.

Household Members	Maximum Monthly Income
2	\$2,658
3	\$3,349
4	\$4,039
5	\$4,730

**\*The average family saves about \$100 a month on groceries after attending this program series.**

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Pennsylvania State University encourages qualified persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact Cyndi Clayton at 570-556-4742 in advance of your participation or visit.

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

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**[extension.psu.edu](http://extension.psu.edu)**

# Volunteers needed!

# VITA

Columbia, Montour, &  
Northumberland Counties

## VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

- Free training & certification
- Flexible hours
- No experience needed
- Great resume builder



Fall is the perfect time of year to consider participating in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program as an income tax preparer. By volunteering your time, you can ensure individuals and families receive the tax credits they are entitled to, avoid costly fees, and receive the money they deserve.

Now is the best time to start. Get your training and certification done and be ready to start when tax season rolls around. Get more information by contacting Sandy Winhofer 570-644-6575 ext. 148 or by [email](#).

This volunteer opportunity runs from January 2021 until April 2021. The commitment time is about three hours each week over those 13 weeks.

## In conclusion...

**CSO is now accepting coat donations. If you know a child who needs warm outerwear, CSO is also taking requests for those in need. Call us today:**

# CSO's Annual "Keep Our Kids Warm" Coat Drive!



Join us by donating  
new winter coats  
in any size.

We will also accept:  
*Hats*  
*Scarves*  
*Gloves*

## Drop Off Locations:

228 Arch St.  
Sunbury, PA 17801

36 E. Main St.  
Bloomsburg, PA 17815

2 E. Arch St., Suite 313  
Shamokin, PA 17872

Questions? Contact Leanne Wesner at 570-644-6575 ext 144 or [lwesner@censop.com](mailto:lwesner@censop.com)

*Thriving Individuals, Thriving Families, Thriving Communities*  
Provide Opportunities. Empower People. Strengthen Communities.

Visit our Website

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

STAY CONNECTED

