

Basic Needs Provider Briefing Summary & Quick Resource Guide

State Budget Impasse: Provider Payment Update

- **The County is still making all service provider payments.**
- We're grateful to the County Executive for continuing to operate the government and using County funds to float over \$50 million per month to providers alone as we await a state budget; most counties cannot do this.

Federal Shutdown: SNAP Delayed

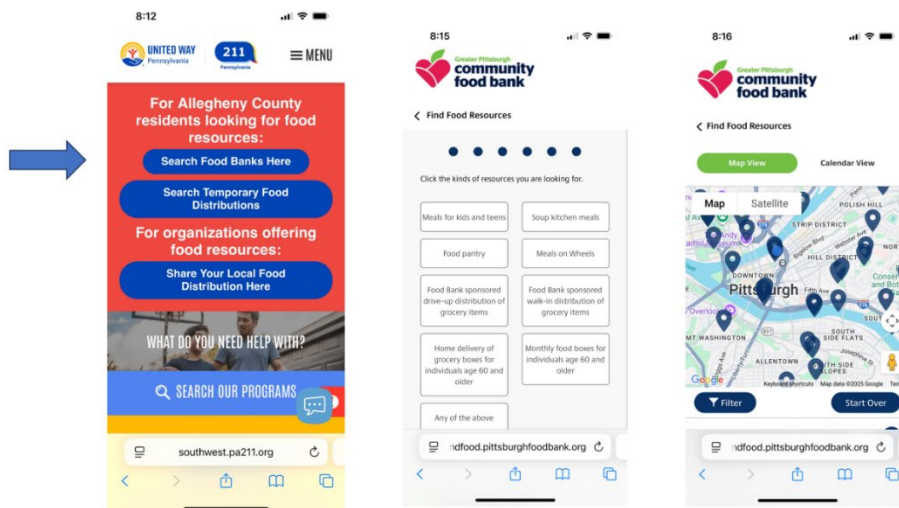
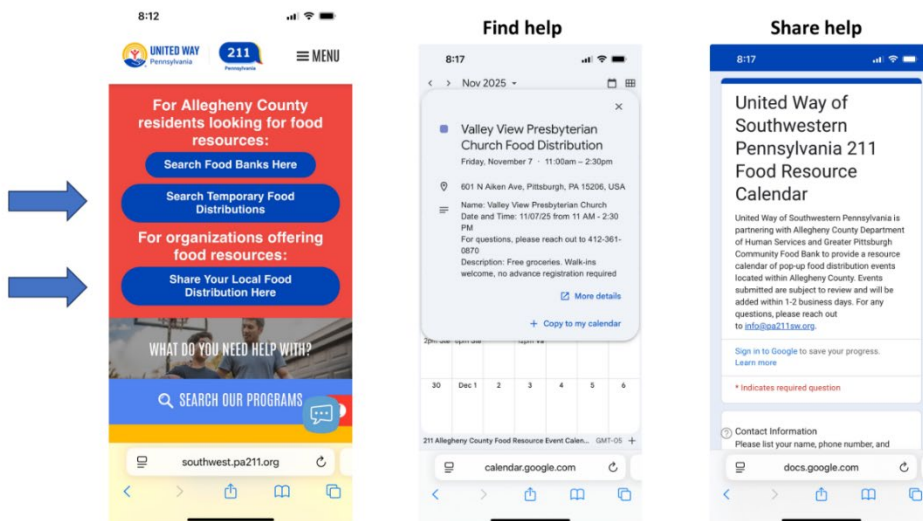
- **SNAP benefits are delayed for November.** Allegheny County residents rely on \$30 million per month in SNAP benefits to afford local groceries. As a result, 2-1-1 and the Food Bank are seeing a sharp rise in need. (Food requests to 211 in October 2025 were up 187% over last year).
- **Court Update:** Following a federal judge's ruling, the USDA has been ordered to exhaust emergency funding to pay SNAP benefits.
 - As of 11/4/25, the administration has indicated that they will provide partial payments (approximately 50% of the normal payment amount) to SNAP recipients.
 - While this is good news, there remains a large gap to fill; we don't yet know exactly when SNAP benefits will be issued; and this is a temporary solution.
- **Other Key Points:**
 - SNAP cards remain active with funds already paid.
 - People will receive back benefits when payments resume.
 - State offices (CAOs) remain open; SNAP recipients are still required to complete paperwork so they can receive their benefits when payments resume.

Federal Shutdown: LIHEAP (Home Heating Assistance) Delayed

- **LIHEAP is delayed until December 2025.**
- PA's annual winter utility shutoff moratorium begins December 1, preventing shutoffs but not canceling outstanding balances.
- People who need assistance will still need to apply for LIHEAP when it opens. (More information [here](#).)
- While local utility assistance and Dollar Energy Fund grants cannot replace the LIHEAP, they remain available to assist low-income people who may be struggling with utility bills.

*Available Resources for Basic Needs***FOOD RESOURCES:** <https://southwest.pa211.org/>**Visit the Southwest PA 211 website. Use the red banner buttons to:**

- (1) Search for local food bank sites
- (2) View the community resource calendar (temporary assistance during shutdown)
- (3) Submit resources available in your community to the food calendar

<https://southwest.pa211.org/><https://southwest.pa211.org/>

OTHER BASIC NEEDS

- **Help people access programs that remain open and can help save money-- like utility assistance, WIC and Allegheny Go:.**

Program	Status	Available Alternative Resource	Where to get help
SNAP	DELAYED	Food bank map + calendar of local resources	Southwest.pa211.org Dial: 2-1-1 OR Text Your Zip Code to 898-211
LIHEAP	DELAYED	Other utility assistance programs	See row below
Utility assistance	ACTIVE	<i>Duquesne Light</i> • CAP, CARES <i>Peoples Gas</i> • CAP, LIURP <i>Dollar Energy Fund</i> • Utility Assistance Grants	<i>Duquesne Light</i> • Apply online • Call: 1-888-393-7600 <i>Peoples Gas</i> • Apply online • Call: 1-888-282-6816 <i>Dollar Energy Fund</i> • Apply online • Agency Finder
WIC	ACTIVE	Still active	Call: 412-350-5801 It takes 2-3 weeks to get appt/benefits; emergency applications are accepted
Head Start	ACTIVE	Still active	How to Apply Head Start Center Locator Call: 1-866-763-6481
Allegheny Go	ACTIVE	Still active	Apply online Call: 412-244-3558

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT UTILITY ASSISTANCE

Although LIHEAP is delayed, **utility companies still have resources to help you make payments and keep your service.** If you need help paying for your utilities, contact your utility company to find out what resources may be available for you.

Duquesne Light

To learn more about Duquesne Light Company's program offerings, visit: [Duquesne Light Helping You Stay Connected: The Customer Assistance Programs at a Glance](#)

Customer Assistance Program (CAP): For households <150% Federal Income Guidelines.

- CAP is available to Duquesne Light customers who are adults (18 years of age or older) and living in the household. The applicant's household income must be less than 150% of federal income poverty guidelines.
- What you need to apply:
 - Proof of income and source of income for all household members.
 - Names, social security numbers and birth dates for all household members.

Customer Assistance and Referral Evaluation Services (CARES): For customers facing temporary hardship (no income limits)

- This program assists "payment-challenged customers" and special needs customers in obtaining necessary social service support and assistance.
- There are no income guidelines to qualify for the CARES Program. You may qualify for CARES if you are:
 - Experiencing a temporary hardship.
 - Willing to work together with a CARES representative.
- What you need to apply:
 - Statements with Monthly and/or yearly income of all household members
 - Names and birth dates of all household members
 - Household expenses, such as rent, utility bills, food and insurance payments

Peoples Gas

Apply: peoples-gas.com/help-pay

Customer Assistance Program (CAP): For households <2025 Federal Income Guidelines

- To qualify for CAP, customers must meet the following criteria:
 - Your household income meets the 2025 Federal Income Guidelines
 - You must be a current Peoples customer with active residential heating service

Usage Reduction Program (LIURP): For households <2025 Federal Income Guidelines

- To qualify for LIURP, customers must meet the following criteria:
 - Your household income meets the 2025 Federal Income Guidelines
 - You must have lived in the home at least one year.

Dollar Energy Fund

Utility assistance grants to people in need—you apply to each utility. Also must apply for LIHEAP first (when open) and meet Federal Income Guidelines

Apply for a utility assistance grant or locate a nearby agency:

hardshiptools.org/AgencyFinder.aspx or call: 1-888-282-6816

To be eligible for a Dollar Energy Fund grant with **Duquesne Light**, you must:

- Provide proof of your monthly household income (Federal Income Guidelines apply) and must be at or below 200%.
 - Customers with income at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines must apply for [LIHEAP](#) before submitting an application for the Dollar Energy Fund.
- Make a payment of at least \$150 (\$100 for seniors aged 62 and over) or three CAP payments within 90 days of the date you apply for the grant. You will be asked to provide proof of payment(s).*
- Minimum Balance Requirement: \$100.
- Provide the Social Security Numbers of all members of your household.
- Your account must be a residential account, single home or apartment.
- You must be an adult currently living in the household.
- Open to all eligible applicants who are in threat of termination or whose service has been shut-off.

**Effective November 3 – December 2, for Dollar Energy Fund applicants whose outstanding balance is \$3,000 or less, DLC will waive the Sincere Effort Payment requirement, contingent upon the federal government reopening.*

To be eligible for a Dollar Energy Fund grant with **Peoples Gas**, you must:

- Have applied for LIHEAP/Crisis benefits first (when open).
- Have an account for residential service (single family or apartment).
- The name on the account must be for an adult currently living in the household.
- Have made a good faith payment on your account within the last 90 days of applying for the grant.
- Have a gross income within the income 2025 Federal Income Guidelines.
- Other eligibility requirements may apply.