



A Collection of Resources related to the Coronavirus Health Emergency

April 6, 2020

United Way COVID-19 Fund: United Way has helped work with Newton, Lynn and Chelsea to set up COVID-19 relief funds for residents of those communities:

<https://unitedwaymassbay.org/covid-19/covid-19-family-fund/>

Families First Coronavirus Response Act:

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/ffcra>

Webinars from AGO on Civil Rights - I'd like to bring special attention to the **Civil Rights Webinar** we are offering on Monday, April 13th at 2:00 PM. One of our specialists from our Civil Rights Division will be presenting on discrimination when it comes to employment, housing, public accommodations, and other issues brought to fruition as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. ***You can register for these trainings or share them amongst your communities using our [Eventbrite](#) and selecting the respective date.***

Please join us for any of the following and stay tuned for more topics:

- **Landlord/Tenant Rights and Responsibilities** – Tuesday, April 7th 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM
- **Unauthorized Practice of Immigration Law (Portuguese)** – Thursday, April 9th 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM
- **Workers' Rights** – Thursday, April 9th 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
- **Civil Rights** – Monday, April 13th 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
- **Landlord/Tenant Rights and Responsibilities** – Wednesday, April 15th 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM
- **Teen Workers' Rights** – Thursday, April 16th 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

For Kids:

Early Childhood Alliance weekly newsletter <https://www.smores.com/1z730-strengthening-families-newsletter>. *They are doing bilingual story hours.

For talking to kids about Corona Virus this was

recommended <https://www.mindheart.co/descargables> and **Wayside** also has a number of links on the topic <https://www.waysideyouth.org/minimizing-exposure-to-covid-19/>

JFS of Metrowest

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For Older Adults:**Free smart phone info :**

<https://www.assurancewireless.com/partner/psearch?gclsrc=aw.ds&&gclid=CjwKCAjwpqV0BRABEiwA-TySwVW9pW0F4Ew8gaAgB-JxeThzgdcnTCtD5BAVqeDPsh-ftMYs1NKnhoCS3YQAvD BwE>

Special grocery shopping times for older adults:

Taken from local news channel.

New store hours for elders or at-risk

Market basket 6-7

Big Y. 7-8

CVS 9-10

Rite Aid 9-10

Roche Bros 7-8

Shaw's M W F 6-7. Tues & Th 6-9

Stop & Shop 6-7

Trader Joe's 9-10

Wegmans 7-8

Whole Foods 1 hour early.

Information on scams and corona virus (relevant for all of course but older adults tend to be targeted for these sorts of things and more vulnerable) <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/coronavirus-scams-what-ftc-doing>

Eviction Court:

Info from Greater Boston Legal Services <https://www.gbls.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/covid-19-gbls-eviction-court-flyer-3-24-20.pdf>

Mental Health:

What Advocates is doing right now - <https://advocates.org/news/covid-19-coronavirus-and-advocates>

Immigrants:

Resources for undocumented immigrants :

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/18p9OSILpSYanIoUC-gEbhVbRMVUfW4wyrixa9ekGdc/htmlview?fbclid=IwAR0IoA27CTDX9exqp6-TyQuVj68e02jtK6n6G0vWQ2TtMZdch4ukC7NcQ4Y#gid=0>

General fact sheets available in multiple languages:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

CDC has committed resources to ensuring wider access to materials in multiple languages, including some languages of recent refugee arrival populations. For handouts and communication materials tailored to COVID-19, visit the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/factsheets.html>

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- Translations (among many more) available in:
 - Arabic
 - Dari
 - Farsi
 - Swahili
 - Ukrainian
 - Nepali
 - Pashto
 - Tigrinya

Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH)

- The MDPH COVID-19 website is updated daily with new, local information:
<https://www.mass.gov/resource/information-on-the-outbreak-of-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>.

The website includes fact sheets in multiple languages with more to come:
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-printable-fact-sheets>

- Translations are available in:
 - Spanish
 - Traditional & Simplified Chinese
 - Portuguese
 - Haitian Creole
 - Vietnamese

COVID-19 Health Literacy Project - We create and translate accessible COVID-19 information into different languages to help all patients know when, and how, to seek care. Our materials are created in collaboration with Harvard Health Publishing. <https://covid19healthliteracyproject.com/#>

Corona virus and social justice:

A ton of links to articles and other resources curated by a website called Racial Equity Tools

- <https://www.racialequitytools.org/fundamentals/resource-lists/resources-addressing-covid-19-with-racial-equity-lens>

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An update on cash benefits from Bet Tzedek:

As more people are losing income due to COVID-19, we want to remind you of safety net cash resources available to **low income and low asset** Massachusetts residents.

1. **TAFDC** is a cash assistance program for:

- Families with children under 18
- Pregnant women at least 5 months pregnant
- Relatives taking care of a child that is related to you, like your niece or grandchild

*DTA is removing barriers during this crisis, including suspending the 24 month time limit for non-exempt households.

For more information about TAFDC, including income/asset eligibility, see here: [Mass.gov/service-details/check-tafdc-eligibility-and-how-to-apply](https://www.mass.gov/service-details/check-tafdc-eligibility-and-how-to-apply)

2. **EAEDC** is a cash assistance program that can help if you are:

- Unable to work due to your own disability that will last at least 60 days
- Over 65 years old and waiting for [Supplemental Security Income \(SSI\)](#) payments to begin
- Living with and taking care of a child who is not closely related to you
- Participating in a [Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission program](#)
- Required in the home to take care of a disabled person who would otherwise have to move to an institution

*DTA is removing barriers during this crisis, including allowing applicants to self-declare that their disability is expected to last 60 days or more and that it reduces/eliminates their ability to work. DTA is also suspending the requirements for a disability supplement (or DVEN form) and SSI application.

For more information about EAEDC, including income/asset eligibility, see here: [Mass.gov/service-details/check-eaedc-eligibility-and-how-to-apply](https://www.mass.gov/service-details/check-eaedc-eligibility-and-how-to-apply)

Applying for TAFDC/EAEDC cash benefits during COVID-19:

1. Apply online: [DTAConnect.com](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/find-a-department-of-transitional-assistance-office-for-economic-assistance) (recommended method)
2. Apply by phone: Call any local DTA office directly, see contact information here <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/find-a-department-of-transitional-assistance-office-for-economic-assistance>

*Note: Clients applying for cash must not have their applications delayed based on filing for unemployment.

**Note: For clients who do not apply online, DTA will ask applicants to sign and mail back an application summary. This may be a barrier for families who do not have access to DTA Connect, who cannot access a post office, cannot pay for postage, or cannot leave their homes. Bet Tzedek can help JF&CS and partner agency clients apply online if needed.

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Reminder about Public Charge:

On February 24, 2020, a new public charge came into effect. It is important to remember:

1. **Most immigrants will not be affected.** This DHS public charge regulation does not affect all immigrants. Refugees, asylees, survivors of trafficking, domestic violence and other serious crimes, and other “humanitarian” immigrants are not affected. Benefits received when people are in one of these statuses will not be counted against them. Lawful permanent residents (or people with “green cards”) are not affected unless they leave the US for over 180 days and seek to reenter.
2. **Benefits used by family members will not count in public charge decisions.** U.S. citizen family members can use the nutrition, food, or housing programs that help them thrive. Benefits that your children receive will not count against you.
3. **Many public programs are not considered in the public charge test.** Life-saving food and nutrition programs like WIC, CHIP, school lunches, food banks, shelters, child care assistance, state and locally funded health care, and many more programs are **not** included in the public charge test.
4. **Use of public programs does not automatically make you a public charge.**

*On March 13, 2020, USCIS announced that **COVID-19 testing, prevention, or treatment would NOT be used against immigrants in a public charge test.** This means that **immigrant families should seek the care they need during this difficult time.**

Please see more information about public charge here: <https://protectingimmigrantfamilies.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Public-Charge-Know-Your-Rights-February-2020-ENGLISH.pdf>.

Please contact Bet Tzedek if you have any questions or want to refer a client. Clients can contact Bet Tzedek by calling our Intake Line, 781-693-1333.

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