

# FAIRFIELD SOCIAL SERVICES (203 256-3170)

## FALL NEWSLETTER



### ***JOB PLACEMENT & CAREER DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES***

***The WorkPlace*** – [www.workplace.org](http://www.workplace.org) or call 203-610-8500

The WorkPlace offers an array of programs for job seekers including apprenticeships in manufacturing and healthcare; job coaching and job placement services; networking opportunities; GED preparation; and even financial assistance through no interest loans. Special programs are available for veterans, re-entry workers, and those behind on the mortgages. Transportation and childcare benefits may be available as well.

***Fairfield Public Library*** – <https://fairfieldpubliclibrary.org>

FPL provides access to a wide variety of job and career resources like resume and cover letter samples; interest and skill inventories; niche and industry-specific websites; websites for more general career and salary exploration; job search seminars, podcasts, and more.

**Alliance For Community Empowerment – [www.AllianceCT.org](http://www.AllianceCT.org)**

Alliance, our local community action agency, has a department called Supportive Services that provides GED classes, job search assistance and job training as well. For more information call 203-838-8110.

**Housatonic Community College – [www.housatonic.edu/snap](http://www.housatonic.edu/snap)**

SNAP Employment & Training Program is a job readiness program that prepares clients for careers in fields like health care, retail banking, graphic design, criminal justice, and accounting, to name just a few. It also offers vocational training and support services. For more information, please contact Loretta Lloyd - Ebron at 203-332-5145.

**Goodwill Career Centers – [careercenter@gwct.org](mailto:careercenter@gwct.org)**

Get job search, internet, and email basic training; help with interview skills and professional attire; teen employment; and specific strategies for job seekers over 50. Call 203-581-5040.

***MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION***

**Important Change for SSI Recipients and Applicants**

The Social Security Administration (SSA) recently changed its rules about how pandemic-related financial assistance is considered, such that it will no longer count pandemic related financial assistance against an applicant's eligibility or benefit amounts. The SSA is now reviewing applications, redeterminations, appeals, and other records going back to March 2020. To access or restore benefits, you do not have to wait to be contacted. Reach out to the Social Security Administration directly at 866-331-6399. If you need additional support or assistance, please call the Department of Social Services at 203-256-3170.

**Veterans and Service Members – Student Loan Relief**

Veterans and service member with student loans may be eligible for special programs that forgive interest on loans, or even cancel the loan entirely. The Department of Education is working with government agencies to automatically apply these benefits to all eligible loans, but for more information, contact your lender.

**And did you know that veterans may be reimbursed for travel to medical appointments?**

The VA is trying to get everyone to file their travel claims online via its new

Beneficiary Travel Self Service System, or BTSS. However, travel claims may also be filed at kiosks located in VA medical centers, help desks, or patient services offices at many VA hospital or local clinics.

### **Safe Return Network**

If a family member is prone to “wandering” or getting lost, consider registering for a new program developed to assist emergency personnel in locating them. To register go to [fpdct.com/safereturn](http://fpdct.com/safereturn); for more information, contact Officer Anthony Krushinsky at [akrushinsky@fairfieldct.org](mailto:akrushinsky@fairfieldct.org) or call 203-254-4800

### **Commission on disAbilities Seeking Volunteers**

Applications are currently being accepted for volunteers to join the newly established Fairfield Commission on disAbilities, a group intended to promote the inclusion and integration of differently abled people in community activities, services, and employment opportunities. Visit the Fairfield Commission on disAbilities page to learn more:

<https://www.fairfieldct.org/commissiondisabilities>. To apply, please visit the town of Fairfield’s Appointment Process page:

<https://fairfieldct.org/appointmentprocess>

### ***ON THE LIGHTER SIDE***

**Gift of Dance Scholarship Programs** for young people 12-18 years old – Latin, Krump, Hip Hop, African, Dancehall, Street Jazz, Contemporary and more! For more information call 917-697-3946 and check out on Instagram: @giftofdancescholarship.

Double Up Dance Studio, 2215 Black Rock Turnpike, Fairfield

### **Fairfield Harvest Market October 16**

Art, crafts, a Dog Halloween Costume Parade, & so much more! Free event and open to the public from 10:00am-4:00pm on the Old Town Hall Green (corner of Old Post Rd. and Beach Rd.)

### **Pequot Library’s Autumn Festival October 30**

In-person event on the Great Lawn from 2:00 – 4:00 pm for all ages (raindate: 11/6). After attending the Southport Volunteer Fire Department’s Open House, head over to Pequot Library’s first ever Autumn Festival for crafts, fun and games,

and live music. For information about other educational programs, exhibitions, and workshops, see [pequotlibrary.org](http://pequotlibrary.org)

For more opportunities to learn, play, and connect with your neighbors throughout the fall, see the Fairfield Events Calendar at <https://patch.com>.

## ***UPDATED HOUSING RESOURCES***

### ***Rental & Utility Assistance***

Tenants and property owners may be eligible for up to \$10,000 towards overdue rent and \$1500 towards utility payments through UniteCT. Apply online at [www.bit.ly/UniteCT](http://www.bit.ly/UniteCT), or call 1-844-864-8328 for assistance.

**UniteCT** will now:

- Cover arrears accrued since March 13, 2020, rather than only those accrued in last 6 months
- Pay landlords for 100% of covered arrears, rather than only 85%
- Cover 3 full months of prospective rent
- Protect tenants from evictions for nonpayment of rent during the months covered by the prospective rent payments
- Continue to consider waiving the \$10,000 limit on rent assistance, on a case by case basis, for households with extenuating circumstances
- Rely where possible on information about an applicant's enrollment in other state programs to streamline the application process

Please Note: Anybody without a social security card or ITN number may call CIRI (Connecticut Institute for Immigrants and Refugees) for rental assistance at 203-336-0141.

### ***Additional Utility Assistance Through CEAP***

Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) is underway for 2021/2022. Alliance for Community Empowerment, Fairfield's local Community Action Agency (CAA), is now accepting early intake applications. Contact Alliance at 203 384-6904. You may explore their website at [www.AllianceCT.org](http://www.AllianceCT.org)

If you are unable to apply for energy assistance on your own, you may also apply with the help of the Department of Social Services beginning September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Please call 203-256-3170 to make an appointment.

### **Emergency Lien Assistance Program**

**Beginning October 1** Public Act 21-44 will establish an emergency lien assistance program within the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority's Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program. The program is designed to offer loans to homeowners facing foreclosure due to liens from municipal water or sewer charges, municipal tax debt, or association assessments and fines accrued at condos and similar types of housing.

### **Eviction Help**

For those facing the possibility of eviction, legal services are available at 1-800-453-3320 (toll free).

Also, if you do not know your rights, The Connecticut Fair Housing Center can help. Call 860-247-4400 or 888-247-4401, or explore their website at [www.ctfairhousing.org](http://www.ctfairhousing.org). Pay close attention to the tab labelled "Evictions During Covid-19 Pandemic". This provides updated information about Governor Lamont's Executive Order relating to the Eviction Process and UniteCT Program.

### **Foreclosure Prevention**

BTN (Building Neighborhoods Together) offers both Foreclosure Prevention Counseling, and also Foreclosure Prevention Clinics. For more information: [info@bntweb.org/class-descriptions](mailto:info@bntweb.org/class-descriptions) or call 203-290-4255.

Additional information and resources may be found at the aforementioned [CT Fair Housing Center](http://www.ctfairhousing.org): 860-247-4400 or 888-247-4401; [www.ctfairhousing.org](http://www.ctfairhousing.org)

### **Mortgage Assistance**

Contact the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority's Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (EMAP) – 860-571-3500.

Financial Assistance is also available through Operation Hope. Contact Brenda Lobdell at 203-292-5588, ext. 225.

### **Emergency Broadband Benefits**

For a monthly discount on broadband service up to \$50, eligible households can enroll through an approved provider or by visiting [getemergencybroadband.org](http://getemergencybroadband.org). Check website regularly for latest information: [www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit](http://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit)

***Please call Social Services (203) 256-317 with any questions  
or to schedule an appointment.***