

# Beaver County Office on Aging COVID-19 Task Force Newsletter Volume 11, July 1, 2020

**\*CHANGES THIS YEAR\***

## 2020 Farmers Market Program



The Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, which is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, provides eligible seniors with four (4) - \$6.00 vouchers, a total of \$24.00 in vouchers. The vouchers can be used to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at any participating Farmers Market.

**Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, application forms and vouchers will be processed ONLY through the mail. Vouchers will not be given out in person.** You must complete an application in order to receive your vouchers. Because of this new process, do not expect to receive your vouchers until sometime in August. Vouchers can be used until November 30, 2020.

**To request an application, call 724-846-1959 OR 724-869-4224\***

**Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.**

**\*If you have already called the Office on Aging to request an application, you do not need to call again.**

**Fill out the application COMPLETELY, SIGN it, and MAIL it to:**

**Beaver County Office on Aging  
1020 8<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Beaver Falls, PA 15010**

To apply, individuals must be age 60 or older (as of December 31, 2020), reside in Beaver County and meet income guidelines: household of 1, \$23,606 or household of 2, \$31,894. Only one set of vouchers per person is permitted, while supplies last. For a list of where the vouchers can be used, visit [www.pafmnp.org](http://www.pafmnp.org) for online information.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
SENIOR FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM

2020 Application Form

To qualify you must be 60 or older (or turn 60 by 12/31/2020) and meet the household income guidelines.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

I certify that the information I have provided below for my eligibility determination is correct, to the best of my knowledge. This certification form is being submitted in connection with the receipt of Federal assistance. Program officials may verify information on this form. I understand that intentionally making a false or misleading statement or intentionally misrepresenting, concealing, or withholding facts may result in paying the State agency, in cash, the value of the food benefits improperly issued to me and may subject me to civil or criminal prosecution under State and Federal law.

Standards for eligibility and participation in the SFMNP are the same for everyone, regardless of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

I understand that I may appeal any decision made by the local agency regarding my eligibility for the SFMNP.

**By signing this, I acknowledge that my total household income is within the Income guidelines: \$23,606 for 1 person in the household; or \$31,894 for 2 people in the household and that I am 60 years old or older (or will turn 60 by December 31, 2020).**

1<sup>st</sup> Participant Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Person checks are for)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

2<sup>nd</sup> Participant Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Person checks are for)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

Address (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ County you live in \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle the most appropriate identifier for each:

<b>Ethnicity:</b>	Hispanic or Latino	Not Hispanic or Latino	
<b>Race:</b>	American Indian or Alaskan Native Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	Asian White	Black or African American

If more responses are received than funding allows you will be notified by mail.

Please mail your completed form before September 30, 2020 to:  
Beaver County Office on Aging  
1020 8<sup>th</sup> Ave., Beaver Falls, PA 15010

## **USDA Nondiscrimination Statement**

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at: [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## Farmers Markets- Local Growers

Ambridge- Park Road and Route 65  
Thursdays 4-7 PM  
May through November

Beaver- Courthouse Parking Lot  
Saturdays 10 AM- 1 PM  
May through December

Beaver Falls- 712 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Mondays 3:30 PM- 6:30 PM  
May through November

New Brighton- Diamond Milling Co. parking lot  
313 Fifth Ave.  
Tuesdays 3:30 PM-6:30 PM  
May through November

New Sheffield- First United Methodist Church parking lot  
2816 Brodhead Road  
Wednesdays 3:30 PM- 6:30 PM  
May\* through October

Chippewa – Chippewa United Methodist Church parking lot  
2545 Darlington Road  
Tuesdays 3:30 PM-6:30 PM  
May through November

\*Opening for New Sheffield was cancelled in May. Opening date to be announced.

\*\* Some markets are open through December but vouchers need to be redeemed by November 30, 2020.

## AARP Has Online Income Tax Preparation Assistance

AARP has a link to an online request for a “coach” to help them with preparation of income taxes, which are due July 15. The coaching will be done online. The link is: <https://www.aarp.org/forms/tax-prep-assistance-request.html>

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## Pennsylvania Mortgage Assistance Program is Available

Pennsylvania Mortgage Assistance Program was created through funding under the CARES Act to aid in foreclosure prevention by providing emergency assistance in the form of a grant on behalf of Pennsylvania homeowners who are at least 30 days delinquent in their monthly mortgage payments. Delinquencies must be due to job loss or reduced work hours and wages as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. All grants are subject to the availability of funds.

### WHO CAN APPLY?

- Homeowners who, as a result of COVID-19, became unemployed after 3/1/2020 or had their annual household income reduced by 30% due to reduced work hours and wages.
- Lenders on behalf of homeowners whose monthly mortgage payments are 30 days or more past due and who, as a result of COVID-19, became unemployed after 3/1/2020 or had their annual household income reduced by 30% due to reduced work hours and wages.

### HOW TO APPLY?

- **The acceptance period for applications starts 7/6/2020 and ends on 9/30/2020.**
- Application can be made through a web-based process at <https://PMAP.phfa.org> or you may download an application from our website at [www.phfa.org](http://www.phfa.org) to complete and submit by mail.
- The mailing address for paper applications is PHFA/PMAP, PO Box 15530, Harrisburg, PA 17105-5530.
- Whether the application is submitted online or by mail, supporting documentation will be required. The online process allows a homeowner or lender to upload the necessary documentation electronically. If applying by mail, copies of the required documentation must be provided. For lenders applying on behalf of homeowners, there will need to be coordination by both parties.

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Unemployment related to COVID-19 must have occurred after March 1, 2020, or annual household income must have been reduced by 30% or more due to reduced work hours and wages related to COVID-19. Unemployment must be verified with the Department of Labor and Industry’s Bureau of Unemployment Compensation;
- The subject property must be owner-occupied and located within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania;
- The subject property must be secured by a mortgage or other security interest in cases where the property is subject to an installment sales contract or agreement;
- The dwelling must consist of one or two separate units;
- The mortgage must be at least 30 days delinquent and due between March 2020 and December 2020. Only mortgages in a first or second lien position are eligible;
- Homeowners must hold legal title or equitable title. In an effort to assist families with tangled titles and intergenerational family homes, as well as applicants with an installment sales contract or agreement, equitable owners, who are not the sole record owner or mortgagor, may be eligible; and
- Annual household income must not exceed the Area Median Income for the county of residence (adjusted for the number of people in the household). To find the area median income by county, go to <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il.html>. Select 2020 as the year and choose “Click Here for FY 20 IL Documentation” to view the income limit per household size. Because the allowance is for the “upper limit”, use the 50% amount and double it to get the amount needed to compare with the annualized current income. The grant cannot be provided if annualized current income exceeds that 100% median income amount.

### ASSISTANCE TO BE PROVIDED:

- Assistance is capped at \$1,000 per month for a maximum period of six months per mortgage for mortgages in a first or second lien position;
- Only payments due between March 2020 and December 2020 are eligible for assistance;
- Payment will be made directly to the lender;
- Assistance may be provided as a one-time payment (non-continuing) or as an initial payment in addition to

assistance for future mortgage payments not to exceed a total of 6 months (continuing) per mortgage.

- If a lender applies on behalf of a homeowner, the homeowner must work with the lender and provide authorization and the required application documentation.

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## **The CARES-Rent Relief Program is Available**

### **WHAT IS THE CARES-RENT RELIEF PROGRAM?**

The CARES Rent Relief Program (CARES RRP) was created as an emergency response to the COVID-19 health pandemic to provide rental assistance to assist households experiencing job loss or a substantial loss of income as a result of the current health crisis.

### **I WOULD LIKE TO APPLY. WHAT DOCUMENTS MAKE UP A COMPLETE APPLICATION?**

A completed CARES RRP application must include the Landlord Application, Landlord/Property Certification Form and the Lessee Household Certification/Renter Application, along with supporting documents outlined on the each of the application documents.

### **HOW MUCH FUNDING IS AVAILABLE?**

The program provides at least \$150 million in total assistance for eligible landlords/renters across Pennsylvania.

### **WHERE CAN WE FIND THE APPLICATION DOCUMENTS?**

CARES RRP application documents and additional resources are available to the public on PHFA's CARES website: <https://phfa.org/pacares/>.

### **WHO QUALIFIES TO RECEIVE CARES RRP ASSISTANCE?**

CARES RRP assistance is available to lessees with incomes up to the area median income experiencing 30% or more of a reduction in annual household income resulting from reduced work hours and wages related to the pandemic.

### **HOW MUCH CAN A RENTER RECEIVE?**

The maximum amount available monthly per lessee is \$750, covering no more than six (6) months of rent expenses. The maximum RRP funding available per lessee is \$4,500.

### **IS MY COUNTY ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE?**

Yes. Every county has an agency designated to accept applications from applicants. The list of participating organizations can be found by county on PHFA's CARES website: <https://phfa.org/pacares/>.

### **ARE THERE ANY CARES RRP MONITORING OR REPORTING REQUIREMENTS?**

Yes. Counties must submit monthly reports to PHFA by using the CARES RRP website. Reports are due by 5pm on the last Friday of each month on the following dates: July 31, August 28, September 25, and October 30.

The final report is due to PHFA at 5pm on December 8, 2020 including cumulative program data for assistance provided between July 6 and November 30th.

### **HOW MUCH CAN A RENTER RECEIVE?**

The maximum amount available monthly per lessee is \$750, covering no more than six (6) months of rent expenses. The maximum RRP funding available per lessee is \$4,500.

### **WHO WILL RECEIVE THE CARES RRP ASSISTANCE FUNDS?**

Funds will be provided directly to the landlord/property owner. CARES RRP funds will not be provided to the renter household.

### **WHAT DOCUMENTS MAKE UP A COMPLETE CARES RENT RELIEF PROGRAM APPLICATION?**

Applicants will need to complete the following documents in order to submit a complete CARES RRP application:

- o Landlord Application
- o Landlord/Property Certification Form
- o Lessee Household Certification/Renter Application

### **HOW WILL I BE NOTIFIED IF I AM APPROVED TO RECEIVE CARES RRP ASSISTANCE?**

The county-designated organization will notify successful applicants of the total months and amount of assistance covered by the CARES program.

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## **Beaver County Radio Has Multiple Church Services Available on Sundays**

Beaver County Radio includes 1230 AM WBVP, 1460 AM WMBA , 99.3 FM and Beaver County Radio live stream has a large line up of church services on the air as churches are closed during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Sunday starts with Sounds of Faith, an inspirational segment of worship and praise music from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. It is followed live Mass from St. Monica Catholic Church in Chippewa Township at 9 a.m. At 10 a.m., a recorded broadcast from First Presbyterian Church in Rochester, features Rev. Lee Bittner along with special music by Mike Neely. Pastor Jan Davis from Central United Methodist Church, Beaver Falls, will engage listeners with a recorded sermon. At noon, Senior Pastor Cliff Reynolds of Word Alive Church in Ellwood City, will have a recorded message. A live broadcast from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. will be aired from New Galilee Church of the Nazarene featuring Pastor Andy Russell speaking from the “drive in church” pulpit. You can pull up, park and tune the car radio to any of the Beaver County Radio stations to hear his Sunday message. Pastor Rod Smith from Mountain Ministries presents his recorded message, Good News from the Mountain, at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays.

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## **Older Adult Protective Services**

If you feel an older adult is being abused, neglected, or exploited, call Older Adult Protective Services at 724-775-1786. The hotline is open 24 hours a day.

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## **Ombudsman Service is Available**

The Beaver County Office on Aging Ombudsmen are working full time, at home, and are available to accept calls and handle any complaints or questions related to nursing facility and personal care home resident rights and problem resolution. We will return your call by the end of the next business day. Ombudsman calls are considered and treated with highest confidentiality.

To contact the Ombudsman program you may: email [Ombudsman@BCOA.US](mailto:Ombudsman@BCOA.US); call the Ombudsman direct phone line 724-480-8589; or call the Office on Aging main phone 724-847-2262, identify your call as an Ombudsman issue, with no details, as these calls are highly confidential and leave your name and phone number only.

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