COVID-19 Financial Resources

Unemployment Benefits
- Learn more about [WA State Unemployment Benefits](#), the eligibility requirements, and how to apply.
- In Oregon, visit [Oregon.gov](#) to file for unemployment.
- In Montana, visit [MontanaWorks.gov](#) to file for unemployment.

Job Search and Training
- [CareerOneStop](#), sponsored by the US Department of Labor, provides employment-related resources, such as: job banks, training guidance, job search tips, career assessments, and resume guide.
- Search for jobs by creating an account with Worksource WA [here](#) or contact the local WorkSource center for a list of all training service on site at 509-527-4393.
- Blue Mountain Action Council (BMAC) provides job training as a WorkSource affiliate. Learn about their Employability Training Center [here](#) or call 509-529-4980.
- In Oregon, visit [WorkSource Oregon](#) for current job openings, job service locations and other resources.
- In Montana, visit [MontanaWorks](#) for current job openings, job service locations and other resources.

Financial and Legal Concerns
- An Employee Benevolence Fund (EBF) has been established for any current or recently released employee in critical financial need. To learn about the NEW WWU Employee Benevolence Fund (EBF) and to see if you are eligible, read the EBF policy [here](#). If you are in need of critical financial need, you may apply for assistance from the EBF [here](#).
- The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) by the Standard Life Insurance Company, provides employees with up to three confidential assessment and counseling sessions for financial or legal concerns. Contact: 888-293-6948, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- The Pro Bono Lawyer Referral Program provides legal referrals for low-income residents of Walla Walla and Columbia Counties with civil cases to local attorneys. Services are provided with a nominal, income-based fee. Call the Northwest Justice Project's Attorney Hotline at 1-888-201-1014.
- For fee-based financial counselors, Edward Jones (800-441-2357), Raymond James (800-248-8863), and Ameriprise Financial Services (800-862-7919) all provide certified financial planners.

Housing Counselors
The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has a list of approved counseling agencies that can offer independent advice on buying a home, renting, defaults, foreclosures, and credit issues at little or no cost to you. To find a HUD approved counseling agency, visit [here](#).

Mortgage Relief – Contact your loan servicer
- The CARES Act protects homeowners with federally backed mortgages, prohibiting lenders from beginning or finalizing on a foreclosure during a 60-day period, beginning March 18, 2020.
- Homeowners experiencing a financial hardship due to the coronavirus pandemic, may also request a forbearance for up to 180 days. You must contact your loan servicer to make this request. The Federal Housing Finance Agency has reiterated that borrowers in forbearance with the Enterprises (Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac) are not required to repay missed payments in a lump sum. [FHFA Release](#).
- If you don't have a federally back mortgage, you may still have options available, check with your loan servicer.
- To learn more on mortgage relief options, visit: consumerfinance.gov

Renters – Contact your landlord
- Effective March 27, 2020, the CARES Act issued a 120-day eviction moratorium for those experiencing a financial hardship and living in a rental property financed by the Enterprises. You can look up your rental property at [Fannie Mae](#) or [Freddie Mac](#).
• If your rental property is not financed by either organization, and you are at risk of homelessness, grants are available from the BMAC, administrated by the WA Dept of Commerce.

Public Utilities – Contact your local utility companies
• Montana has issued a new directive which specifically prohibits suspensions or cancelations of utilities during the emergency, including electricity, gas, sewage disposal, water, telephone, or internet services. Late fees are also prohibited during the directive.
• In Oregon, Pacific Power, Portland General Elective and Idaho Power will suspend service disconnects and temporarily extend services without late fees during the COVID-19 outbreak.
• In Washington, utility companies may access existing energy bill assistance funds during the COVID-19 pandemic to continue services, waive late fees, and/or create payment arrangements with any affected customers. Utility assistance is also available from WA State grants, Helpline, and/or the Salvation Army, administered through BMAC, call 509-529-4980.

Food Assistance, Emergency Cash Assistance, and other programs
• Mobile food banks or grocery delivery are currently available through BMAC. Documentation is not required. See the attached flyer for the Walla Walla Mobile Food Bank here, or call 509-529-3561 for information.
• The Pantry Shelf Walla Walla, located at the First Presbyterian Church provides food and toiletries. Call 509-526-4169 or create a shopping list online here.
• The WA State Department of Social and Health Services will be providing emergency cash assistance to qualifying low-income WA residents. Read the official notice here and download the Disaster Cash Assistance Program FAQ for instructions on how to apply and review the eligibility requirements. To apply for disaster cash assistance or other assistance, visit Washington Connection.org. Please note: after completing your online application, you must call their Customer Services at 877-501-223 for a required interview. Food assistance is also available through Washington Connection.
• In Oregon, apply for food assistance through the Oregon Department of Human Services here, or call: 1-888-235-5333.
• In Montana, apply for food, medical, or cash assistance at the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services here, or call 1-888-706-1535.