

# COVID-19 Resource: Financial Assistance

*Due to COVID-19 services and programs are changing rapidly.  
Please contact agencies directly to determine the availability of their individual programs.*

## Dakota County Employment & Economic Assistance Programs

There is a waiver for Employment and Economic Assistance to accept over the phone public assistance applications (Food Assistance- SNAP/Cash Assistance- MFIP, DWP, GA, MSA, HS/Emergency Assistance- EGA, EA, ECA/Health Care- METS, MA) for clients that cannot apply online or have an application mailed to them to mail back. These clients must have access to a telephone to call us for an appointment and to receive a call back at the scheduled time. If you speak to someone that needs this service, please refer them to 651-554-5611 to schedule their appointment. Our “over the phone” service is intended to supplement other methods of applying for benefits.

### Online

- [Bridge to Benefits](#) is a tool to help determine potential public assistance eligibility before completing an online application. This is optional.
- [MNbenefits.mn.gov](https://mnbenefits.mn.gov) is where you can apply for food, cash, emergency, and childcare assistance.
- Be sure to check out the [MNsure website](#) for information on applying for healthcare.

### Paper/Mail

- Paper applications and a drop box is located outside the front entrance of the Northern Service Center (1 Mendota Rd. W., West St. Paul, MN, 55118)
- You can also view and print application, renewal, and verification forms [online](#).
- Mail your paperwork to: Dakota County E&EA, 1 Mendota Rd. W., West St. Paul, MN 55118

### Email & Fax

You can submit your paperwork for food, cash, emergency, childcare, and healthcare assistance via:

- Email: [eeadocs@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:eeadocs@co.dakota.mn.us).
- Fax: 651-554-5748

## Renewal Information for Cash Assistance & SNAP Programs

- The Minnesota Department of Human Services is resuming annual renewals and six-month reviews for cash assistance programs and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Cash Assistance programs include Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), General Assistance (GA), Minnesota Supplemental Assistance (MSA) and Housing Support (GRH).
- This process will start up for households who have renewals due for June and will continue going forward each month.
- Each month the state will mail notices and paperwork to households that need to complete a renewal.
- To streamline the process, DHS created a shorter [Household Update Form \(DHS-8107\)](#).
- Renewals for Minnesota Healthcare Programs are suspended. It has not been determined when they will resume.
- If you have questions, call your Financial Worker or [Employment & Economic Assistance](#) at 651-554-5611.

## COVID-19 Federal Supports

### Economic Impact Payments

You can find information on Economic Impact Payments on the [IRS website](#).

### Funeral Costs

Information on funeral costs for COVID-19-related deaths can be found on the [FEMA website](#).

## Energy Assistance Programs

Energy Assistance Programs (EAP) help pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs for income-qualified households.

- Both renters and homeowners are eligible.
- Assets, such as the home, are not considered in determining eligibility.
- Grants range from \$300 to \$1,600, based on household size, income, and fuel cost.
- The average grant is about \$550.
- In addition to the initial grant, additional Crisis funds are available to:
  - Help pay a past due bill or get an emergency fuel delivery.
  - Help homeowners get their broken furnace repaired or replaced.
- How residents of Dakota County can apply for EAP:
- Call Community Action Partnership (CAP) of Scott, Carver, & Dakota Counties at 651-322-3500
- Visit the [CAP agency website](#)
- Non-Dakota County residents can call 1-800-657-3710