Hill District Community Forum on COVID-19
April 9, 2020
Welcome!

- Marimba Milliones, President and CEO of the Hill CDC

- The Hill CDC works in partnership with residents and stakeholders to create, promote, and implement strategies and programs that connect plans, policies and people to drive compelling community development opportunities in the Greater Hill District.

- This forum was created to bring together Hill District partners and connect you to resources for our community!
Agenda

- Welcome
- COVID-19 Facts, Best Practices, & Risks to the Black Community
- Census 2020
- Employment/Unemployment
- Food and Basic Supplies
- Public Health Services
- Education
- Housing
- Additional Services
- Representative Wheatley and the response at the State Councilman Lavelle and Response at the City
Forum Format

- Presenters are ordered by topic area
- Will take written questions in either Zoom Chat or FB Live after each topic area
- Will have open Q&A at the end
COVID-19 Resources

- You can find flyers and links to resources, including this presentation, and a recording of this forum at www.hilldistrict.org/covid19

- Please fill out the Hill District COVID-19 Needs Survey! This information will be shared with critical service provider partners who will follow-up with you.
Hill District Cases

- 226 confirmed cases in Pittsburgh
- 3 confirmed cases in Crawford Roberts
- 2 confirmed cases in Terrace Village
- Potential for more unconfirmed cases!
THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS!
Social Equity Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Noble Maseru, Ph.D. MPH, Director, Center for Health Equity and Associate Dean Pitt Public Health
Life Expectancy by Pittsburgh Area Neighborhood

- US Life Expectancy, 78.6 years
- City of Pittsburgh Life Expectancy, 75.9 years
- Allegheny County Life Expectancy, 72.8 years

*Life expectancy averaged over census tracts by neighborhood*
COVID-19 Facts, Best Practices, and Risks to the Black Community

Step 4

Scrub:
1. Palms
2. Back of hands
3. Between fingers
4. Under nails
Census 2020

Michele Cooper, McAuley Ministries
McAuley Ministries

McAuley Ministries serves in the spirit of the Gospel as a compassionate and transforming, healing presence. We commit resources and work collaboratively to promote healthy, safe, and vibrant communities.
Shape the future for your family and community.

The U.S. Constitution requires that every decade we count our nation’s population. By April 1, every household will receive a notice to complete the 2020 Census and be counted.

Responding is important.
You can shape the future for yourself, your family, and your community for the next 10 years. Data collected in the 2020 Census will inform the distribution of more than $675 billion in federal funds to states and communities each year. Businesses, community leaders, and local governments use census data to create jobs, ensure public safety preparedness, and support community initiatives.

Results of the census impact funding for things like:
› Schools and education
› Health care facilities
› Housing assistance
› Public transportation
› Child and adult food assistance programs
› Assistance for people transitioning out of homelessness
› Career and technical education grants
› Medicare Part B

2020CENSUS.GOV
D-OP-BL-EN-127
Census figures define political districts, fuel research, inform planning, and determine how federal funding is allocated throughout the country.

$26 billion dollars came to Pennsylvania in 2015 based on census data. Here are a few examples of how our community benefits from census-derived funding.

**TRANSPORTATION**

In 2018, $28,019,359 was allocated to the Port Authority of Allegheny County from federal programs that use census data to allocate funds according to Southwest Planning Commission’s annual listing of transit projects.

Every weekday, the Port Authority provides 220,000 rides on average.

**EDUCATION**

The Allegheny County Department of Human Services received over $10 million in funding for Head Start programs which provide early learning programs to low income children from birth to age five.

**COMMUNITY**

Head Start programs served 1,953 children in Allegheny County in 2018.

SNAP, WIC, and the School Meals Program all rely on census data to provide needed services.

More than 7.5 million meals were served throughout Allegheny County during the 2017/2018 school year.

BeCounted2020.org • @BeCountedSWPA • #BeCountedSWPA #BeCountedAllegheny #BeCountedPGH
Everyone at your address should be counted.

It is important to count every person living in your household, even if they are staying only temporarily. This includes relatives, nonrelatives, and children as young as one day old.

Our kids are important.

An estimated 5 percent of kids under the age of five were missed in the 2010 Census. At about 1 million babies and young children, that’s the largest undercount of any age group. The 2020 Census helps determine which areas qualify for the critical resources that children and families depend on for the next 10 years—basically an entire childhood! During those years, their communities could receive less funding for schools, parks, SNAP/WIC, hospitals, transportation, and other things kids need.

Responding is easy and secure.

Responding to the census takes just a few minutes. Simply answer a handful of questions online, by phone, or by mail. The Census Bureau encourages renters and recent movers to complete their forms right away, online or by phone, in case paper forms get lost in the mail.

All responses are confidential and protected by law. Your personal information can never be shared with law enforcement agencies or property managers, and it cannot be used against you in any way.
Employment/Unemployment
Worker Safety
Lisa Frank, SEIU Healthcare
SEIU Healthcare

We unite 45,000 caregivers in Pennsylvania to fight for good health for every Pennsylvanian and to make sure that every caregiver can live in health and dignity.
Reminders for All Workers

- Hand Hygiene
- Stay 6 feet apart
- Segregate work clothes and shoes, skip any unnecessary accessories
- Know the signs and get a test
Workplace Checklist

- **Engineering Controls:** arranging work and workflows to minimize risk

- **Administrative Controls:** policies for preventing and containing contagion

- **Pandemic policies that Support Workers:** helping workers keep their lives together and stay on the job, knowing there is support when they need it
New Federal Legislation

- Enhanced Unemployment Compensation
- Mandated Paid Sick Leave
- Funds to help employers provide worker support
Contact Info

Lisa.frank@seiuuhcpa.org
412.551.8596 mobile
seiuhealthcarepa.org
Twitter LisaF_SEIU
Unemployment
State Representative Jake Wheatley and Susan Dickinson, Director of Unemployment Compensation Policy
Unemployment

How To File:

There are **two** ways that you can file:

1. UC Service Center Statewide Toll-Free Number 888-313-7284
2. https://www.uc.pa.gov/unemployment-benefits/file/Pages/Filing%20Instructi

You Will Need:

- SSN
- Home address and mailing address (if different)
- Telephone number
- Valid email
- PIN - Personal Identification Number (optional) - If you have previously filed a UC claim using your previous PIN can prevent you from having to re-enter information
- Direct deposit bank information (optional) - bank name, address, account and routing number.

PIN/Appeals:

- Currently, unemployment is back logged roughly two weeks with issuing PIN’s to new applicants. Once you receive your PIN you will receive back-pay immediately.
- The Appeals Desk is currently not doing any at this time.
Opportunities and Resources

Markese Long, Partner4Work
System response to COVID-19 crisis

For Businesses
- Recruitment assistance for surge hiring needs
- Rapid Response and Layoff Aversion Services
- Connection to small business assistance programs

For adult and young workers/job seekers
- Virtual workshops and career fairs
- Learn & Earn Summer Youth Employment Program
- COVID-related resources and support referrals

For partners and providers
- Virtual service-delivery training resources
- Weekly strategy-setting, challenge mitigation sessions
- Advocacy for flexibility and to bring resources to Pittsburgh and Allegheny County
Immediate hiring opportunities

Retail* – Giant Eagle/GetGo
Manufacturing – U.S. Steel and Philips Respironics
Warehousing – Amazon
Security
Home health aides

* Some opportunities include bonuses for critical hires

www.CareerLinkPittsburgh.com
for information, virtual hiring events, and assistance
Contact Info

Markese Long
Community Relations Manager
Mlong@Partner4Work.org | (412) 552-7090

PARTNER4WORK
The Workforce Development Board for the Pittsburgh Area

Twitter: @PghWorkforce | Facebook: @Partner4WorkPgh | LinkedIn: @Partner4Work-Pittsburgh

partner4work.org
Food/Basic Supplies
Father Paul Abernathy,
Neighborhood Resilience Project
Trisha Gadson, Macedonia
FACE
Macedonia FACE

Macedonia FACE is a faith-based non-profit community outreach of Macedonia Church in the Hill District of Pittsburgh, PA. As an organization, Macedonia FACE is committed to living out its mission by supporting families in the community.

Our Mission

All people are living in a healthy and thriving community.

Our Vision

All children are living in healthy families.
Food Services

- We are open!
- Providing assistance with food
Carol Hardeman, HDCG
The Hill District Consensus Group builds the leadership and power of low-income and working class residents of the Hill District to advance racial and economic justice in our neighborhoods, our schools and our city. Through grassroots organizing, budget and policy advocacy, and implementing our community plans, we are building a community of hope, justice, and opportunity – a community where all residents have access to living wage jobs, family-supporting benefits, affordable housing, high-quality education, and a voice in the decisions that affect our lives.
The Hill District Consensus Group and Confluence Catering have joined to extend Grab & Go Hot Dinners to sites in the Hill District and Wilkinsburg!

Call the Wellness Collective's Community Delivery Hotline at (412)568-3579 for delivery!

**COMMUNITY FORGE**
1256 FRANKLIN AVE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15221
MONDAY - FRIDAY
VOLUNTEER TIMES:
2:30 - 7:30 PM
MEAL DISTRIBUTION: 3 - 7 PM

**NEIGHBORHOOD RESILIENCE PROJECT**
2038 BEDFORD AVE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15219

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS
VOLUNTEER TIMES:
2:30 - 5:30 PM
MEAL DISTRIBUTION: 3 - 5 PM

SATURDAYS
VOLUNTEER TIMES:
10:30 AM - 1:30 PM
MEAL DISTRIBUTION: 11 AM - 1 PM

Go to bit.ly/volunteergrabngo to join our team!
For more information, email: neashia@hdcg.org
Advocacy

- Working with our local and national housing justice partners on the rent, homeowner, and utilities moratoriums. Our efforts have produced new guiding policies for the URA HOF deliverables, eviction protection, homeowners.

- Working to tap into local, state, and Federal funding for assist existing homeowners and renters after the fact.

- Our partners include PURR, Pittsburgh United, Regional Housing, Community Justice Project, Pennslyvanians for Modern Court, City of Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations, CMU Create Lab, Homes for All, Right to the City, Penn Plaza, Lawrenceville United, City of Bridges, Pittsburghers for Public Transit, Northside Coalition for Fair Housing, Action Housing, Fineview, just to name a few.
Public Health Services
Community Health Deputy Initiative
Father Paul Abernathy, Neighborhood Resilience Project
What are the qualifications for a CHD?

- CHD are responsible, respected, trusted and compassionate opinion leader with a strong community network in your neighborhood.

How do I become a CHD?

- If you or anyone in your communities is interested in being a part of the Community Health Deputy program, please contact Tyra Townsend, Trauma Informed Community Development Program Manager, at the following email/phone: ttownsend@neighborhoodresilience.org or call (412) - 261-1234 x125.

- Participate in a two-hour interactive Zoom Orientation webinar.
Matilda Theiss
Jonathan Yadlosky
Matilda Theiss

- Provides primary health care for people of all ages, including uninsured patients.

- Services include:
  - Child and adult physical exams
  - Chronic disease screening and management
  - Immunizations
  - Health education
  - Minor surgery
  - Obstetrical and gynecological care
  - Dental care
  - Medication dispensing service

- In addition, a licensed social worker provides a variety of social, counseling, and health promotion services, including a seniors' health group, and the Theiss Center hosts Alcoholics Anonymous meetings.

- The clinic is also a teaching site for first- and third-year medical students of the University of Pittsburgh, as well as UPMC St. Margaret family medicine residents fulfilling their community health rotations.
Fast facts about COVID-19

- This virus is more deadly than the seasonal flu
- It infects people of all ages, all races, and all ethnicities
- Older adults and those with chronic health conditions seem to be at highest risk of severe illness
- Young people often have “asymptomatic infections,” with few or no signs at all
  - But these people are still contagious! And they can still pass the infection to their loved ones.
- The best way to keep yourself and your family safe: stay home, wash your hands regularly, avoid touching your face, and reach out to your family doctor early with questions or concerns
Resources if you need help

- Matilda Theiss is still open during this crisis
- We are trying to do more via phone, email, and video chat
  - Most of this is through UPMC’s smart phone app, “myUPMC;” it’s available for free on the App Store and Google Play, and we can help you get set up
- If you have concerns about cough or fever, we can connect you with COVID-19 testing resources
- We also have a small supply of food bank donations available
Contact Info

- To schedule an appointment, for more COVID-19 information, or for help with the myUPMC app, please call the front desk at: 412-383-1550

- For information about food donations, please call our dietician directly at: 412-647-0673

- Even if you have to leave a message, I promise we’re trying – we’ll do our best to call you back ASAP
Education
Remote Learning & Support Plan

Kira Henderson, Principal

Weil
District Mission & Vision

**District Vision**

All students will graduate high school college, career and life-ready prepared to complete a two-or four-year college degree or workforce certification.

**District Mission**

The Pittsburgh Public Schools will be one of America’s premier school districts, student-focused, well-managed, and innovative.
Learning Plan

- Instructional Packets available at Grab & Go Sites or online @ https://www.pghschools.org/coronavirus

- Online support for students and families via MS Teams and phone calls

- District currently planning for technology needs based on Family Tech Survey
Needs for Learning Plan

- Technology

- Donations to PPS Remote Learning Fund @ https://www.pghschools.org/remotelearningfund

- Various communication for families (churches, FACEBOOK, local businesses, & community organizations)
Grab & Go Sites

- Miller & Weil will continue as Grab & Go sites for instructional materials and food service
- Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays from 11–1
- May need site for Upper Hill District (Sugar Top)
Additional Questions/Concerns

- Parent Hotline by phone: 412-529-HELP (4357)
- Email: parenthotline@pghschools.org
- Parent Hotline Live Chat, or by submitting a PPS Support Parent Hotline ticket.
- Meeting for Out-of-School Time Providers and Faith-based will be held Monday at 1:00
Beyond the Laptop
Michele Cooper, McAuley Ministries
Laptops for Students!

McAuley Ministries just awarded $20,000 to Neighborhood Allies for Beyond the Laptop which will purchase about 200 laptops, specifically for students in the Hill, Uptown, and West Oakland.
View from PPS
School Board
Sala Udin, School Board Director
Crisis Within a Crisis

- 2018-19 School Year
- 70-80% Hill District Students Failing in Reading & Math
- Then Comes the Novel Corona Virus
- Social Distancing – Closed All Schools
Will Schools Re-open this year?

- No – Governor order issued today
- We should plan as though schools will remain closed
- Public Health experts predict RESURGENCE in fall of 2020
Challenges and Call to Action

- Remote/Distance Learning
- Disproportionate Access to Laptops
- Disproportionate Access to Internet
- TEACHER PREPARATION
- PARENT/GUARDIAN PREPARATION
Housing
Rental Assistance
Trisha Gadson, Macedonia
FACE
Richard Morris, Urban League
Housing Services

- We are open!
- Providing Rent and utility assistance
Urban League

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh is to enable African Americans to secure economic self-reliance, parity and power, and civil rights.

Strategy & Vision Statement

The Urban League employs the following 5-point strategy, tailored to local needs, in order to implement our mission:

Education and Youth Empowerment

Economic Empowerment

Health and Quality of Life Empowerment

Civic Engagement Empowerment

Civil Rights and Racial Justice Empowerment
COVID-19 Housing Stabilization Fund

In an effort to help City of Pittsburgh residents maintain stability during the COVID-19 pandemic, the URA has partnered with the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh to administer the COVID-19 Housing Stabilization Fund.

The fund provides rental, mortgage, and utility assistance to workers who are affected by the outbreak because their hours were cut and/or not able to work given the many circumstances associated with preserving public health and community safety.

**Eligibility Criteria**

Applicants must:

- Be a City of Pittsburgh resident
- Be employed, recently employed, or self-employed and experience a reduction in hours or a layoff due to the employer reducing/eliminating work hours; or the loss of contract work as a public health precaution related to the COVID-19 virus. **(Documentation from the employer will be required.)**
- Be experiencing a financial hardship and inability to pay rent, mortgage payment(s), or utilities

**Area Median Income Chart**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Size</th>
<th>50%</th>
<th>80%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$28,000</td>
<td>$44,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$32,000</td>
<td>$51,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$36,000</td>
<td>$57,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$39,950</td>
<td>$63,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$43,150</td>
<td>$69,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>$46,350</td>
<td>$74,150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Income Limits**

- Mortgage Assistance: At or below 80% AMI
- Rental Assistance: At or below 50% AMI

For more information, please contact:
Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh
Phone: 412.227.4164

To apply, please send an email to hintake@ulpgh.org with the following information:

- Your city address
- Two (2) most recent pay stubs
- Letter from employer verifying your situation

Hill CDC
Homeless Assistance Program
* Serves Allegheny County individuals and families with children under the age of 17.
* Must be income eligible and facing homelessness due to a magistrates eviction notice.

Required Documentation
All Customers:
- Current proof of income for one month (most recent 30 days)
- Photo ID (cannot be expired)
- Social Security card
  Birth certificate for all children in the household 17 years old and younger

Delinquent Rent Assistance Customers:
- Magistrate’s notice or notice of eviction from the landlord
- Two (2) additional documents for address verification
  (Utility bill, school notice, pay stub)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIZE OF HOUSEHOLD</th>
<th>MONTHLY INCOME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$2,023.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$2,743.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$3,463.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$4,183.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$4,903.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rental assistance can be obtained once every two years.
Please contact United Way 211.

By phone:
- Text United Way at 898-211.
- Dial 211 from your phone.
- Reach out toll free at 1-866-856-2773.

By chatroom:
There is a chat window that is located in the bottom right corner of the screen of the website: http://pa211sw.org/

By email:
Send an email to info@pa211sw.org.

By form on United Way’s website:
Go to United Way's webpage: http://pa211sw.org/. There is a link at the top of the page that says “About us.” Hover over it to view a list of options. Click on “contact us.” From there, you can fill out the form to gain access to a Representative for services.

United Way 211 is available to be contacted 24 hours a day, 7 days a week!
Contact Info

Richard Morris, Director of Housing
Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh
The Warner Centre
332 Fifth Avenue, 4th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

www.ulpgh.org
412-227-4163 (Ph)
412-471-6199 (Fax)
Housing Authority Properties

Marsha Grayson, Esq., HACP
The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP)

Who we are: HACP provides **publicly assisted housing** comprised of traditional public housing, and Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8), housing for approx. 20,000 residents.

**Our response to COVID-19:**
- Closed offices to the public on March 15, 2020, and moved remote based operations for all essential services.
- Instituted policy to **halt rent-related evictions for all HACP tenants** & created rapid rent adjustment form for residents.
- **Established call-in line** for questions regarding agency operations, including Housing Choice Voucher Program: **412-456-5111**.
- **Continued all essential functions of HCV Dept.**: processing rent payments, move-ins, recertifications, rent increases, RFTAs, etc.
- Developed cleaning schedule in all HACP owned/ operated facilities - cleaning sanitation for common areas to occur twice per day.

**Our practices have been developed** in accordance with guidance from the CDC, PA Dept of Health and Allegheny Co. Health Dept and HUD.

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200 Ross Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412-456-5000
www.hacp.org
Communication & Resource Coordination

HACP developed a webpage to consolidate all information related to the COVID-19 pandemic: https://hacp.org/covid-19/

**Online resources:** specific contact info at HACP, updates on operations, contact info for valuable resources, instructions for reporting loss of income, links to health info.

**Access to food assistance:** HACP is working with Pittsburgh Public & 412 Food Rescue to connect residents with food assistance, including: Grab & Go meal service, coordinated 412 Food Rescue food drops.

Developing external messaging system (4/15) for residents w/o Internet access. Call in # to hear updates on HACP operations & links to hotline and services.

**Hotline:** 412-456-5111
**Website:** www.hacp.org/covid-19/
Services for HACP Residents

Since the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, HACP has aimed to maintain most programs and services. HACP Resident Self-Sufficiency Dept. continues to provide:

- ROSS/FSS (HUD grant funded programs/case management services);
- Resident Employment Program (job locator assistance for residents including currently laid off/furloughed residents due to COVID-19);
- Service linkage with partner organizations for critical services like trauma support (Center for Victims), mental health, conflict resolution & addiction support (FamilyLinks), supportive services for senior citizens (Ursuline)

Wellness Services:
Increased regular wellness checks - calls to all public housing households, weekly or twice per month, as needed

Hotline: 412-456-5111
Website: www.hACP.org
Social: Twitter (@HACP1) & Facebook (@HACPgh)
Protections for Renters and Homeowners

Bob Damewood, Regional Housing Legal Services
Regional Housing Legal Services is a non-profit law firm whose mission is to create housing and economic opportunity in under-served communities in Pennsylvania and to effect systemic change for the benefit of lower-income households.
Moratoriums

Allegheny County – Until May 8
- Applies to all evictions, foreclosures and ejectments
- Also PA moratorium until April 30 – can be extended

Federal (Foreclosures) – May 18
- Only applies to federally-backed mortgages

Federally Backed Mortgages
- FHA, VA, USDA (check your mortgage)
- Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac (call or use online lookup tool)
Federal (Evictions) – Until July 25

- Only applies to federally-assisted housing
- Only applies to evictions for non-payment
- Also prohibits giving an eviction notice

Federally Assisted Housing

- Public housing, project-based Section 8, LIHTC, housing voucher, federally backed mortgage, etc.
- Check your lease
- National Preservation Database, PHFA Database
- Ask your landlord, call Fannie or Freddie
Payment Relief

Mortgage Forbearance
- Federally backed – **up to 6 months** upon request
- Non-federally backed - ask your lender!

Rent Forgiveness – Work in Progress
- Federally assisted – No late fees through July 25
- State and local advocacy
  - Rent suspension legislation
  - Federal coronavirus funds
  - Eviction mediation

**Note:**
- Work in Progress
- Federally backed
- Non-federally backed
- Ask your lender!
**Resources**

- **R HLS summaries of state and federal moratoriums:** [https://www.rhls.org/coronavirus-information/](https://www.rhls.org/coronavirus-information/)

- **Links to PA and County COVID emergency orders:** [http://www.pacourts.us/ujs-coronavirus-information](http://www.pacourts.us/ujs-coronavirus-information)

- **Neighborhood Legal Services:** [www.nlsa.us/get-help](http://www.nlsa.us/get-help) or (412) 255-6700

- To get involved in advocacy for rent forgiveness: celeste@pittsburghunited.org

- **Questions:** bob@rhls.org
Additional Services
Center That Cares

Shinora Johnson, Chief Operating Officer
CARES is COMMITTED to Serving YOU

During the COVID-19 Crisis CARES will:

* Deliver your Necessities
* Connect you to Resources
* Educate Families on Ways to Stay Healthy
* Offer Programming Virtually for Youth via Facebook

EMAIL: INFO@CENTERTHATCARES.ORG
Pitt Pandemic Service Initiative

We are expanding staff, faculty, and student service; coordinating institutional responses to donation and facility requests; and forging innovative partnerships that address health and the digital divide. https://www.community.pitt.edu

- Volunteer Service

We’ve implemented a new policy that during the pandemic, faculty and staff members can use up to 8 hours of paid time each week toward service activities.

- Community Serving Partnerships
  - Care and Connection Calls
  - Community Health Deputies
  - Small Business Support http://entrepreneur.pitt.edu/business-resources-covid-19/
  - Community Tech Support
Technology Help *
for community-based organizations

Pitt students, faculty, and staff are volunteering to provide technology support during this critical time. As a University of the community, we’re doubling down to support our neighbors.

Community Technology Help Desk

You and your organization can access Pitt's technology help desk for assistance on tech-related issues. All assistance is free.

Connecting to the internet. Accessing e-mail. Using computers and computer applications. Setting up and using phones and tablets. Troubleshooting software problems.

Monday - Friday 9:00-5:00pm

Call: (412) 624-6007

The Community Technology Help Desk is staffed by volunteers who have received training and will assist as best they can. For more difficult or challenging problems, volunteers will refer you to an IT professional at Pitt or an IT professional located in your neighborhood.

Community Technology Help Desk

During the COVID-19 crisis, Pitt students, faculty, and staff are volunteering to provide technology support to members of the public and community-based organizations.

Free technology support

Monday - Friday 9:00-5:00pm*
*hours are dependent on volunteer availability

Call: (412) 383-0805
If prompted enter ID: 702 100 473#

GET HELP WITH
Using computers, computer applications, phones, tablets, and e-mail, connecting to the internet, and other basic questions!

Comprehensive and up-to-date list of community resources including information on COVID-19, basic needs assistance, and access to online resources for children and families: https://www.community.pitt.edu/pitt-support
Senior Services

Trisha Gadson, Macedonia

FACE
Response at the State and Federal Representative Jake Wheatley
As of now the Stay-At-Home Order is in effect until April 30, 2020.

The Stay-At-Home Order does not mean you cannot leave your home. Just be smart when you do.

Pennsylvanians living in impacted counties are ordered to stay at home except to:

- Work at a life-sustaining business
- Outdoor activities like walking, running, hiking, bike riding, and more — as long as social distancing is maintained
- Travel required by law enforcement or court order
- Travel to pick up materials for distance learning or remote working
- Travel to return to your home in a “stay at home” county from another county, or for non-PA-residents to return to their home state
- Run errands needed to maintain health and safety of you + your household (including pets)
- Care for family member/pet in another household or a vulnerable person (elderly, minor, etc.)
- Get or deliver necessary services/supplies for you, your family, household member, or for volunteer efforts
Election Changes


- Register To Vote
  - The last date to register before the primary is May 18, 2020. The department is working to make systematic changes to the dates and deadlines in the Online Voter Registration application as soon as possible.

- VOTE BY MAIL
  - To receive a mail-in ballot you can:
    - Call Allegheny County Elections (412) 350-4520
    - Visit Votespa.com
  - Mail-in ballot applications will be accepted through Tuesday, May 26, 2020
Coronavirus Relief Bill Approved by Congress
Here’s how the bill will help Pittsburghers:

- **Unemployment Insurance** – The Unemployment Insurance program will be expanded to cover part-time, self-employed, and gig economy workers, and for the next four months, unemployment benefits will be increased by $600 per week in order to provide full paycheck replacement for households that have suffered job loss as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the steps taken to slow its spread. In addition, the CARES Act includes incentives for states to eliminate the usual waiting periods in order to get money to people faster. Finally, the CARES Act will provide an additional 13 weeks of federally-funded unemployment insurance benefits.

- **Direct Payments to Most Americans** – The CARES Act will provide cash payments to most American households, including those who receive Social Security benefits, of $1,200 for each adult plus an additional $500 per child. The full payment will be available for individuals making up to $75,000 (individual) and $150,000 (married). The payments will be smaller for households with annual incomes up to $100,000 and $200,000, respectively, and individuals with incomes of more than $100,000 – and married couples with incomes of $200,000 or more – won’t get a payment.

- **Student Loan Relief** – The CARES Act requires the Education Department to suspend monthly payments on all federally held student loans, without interest, through September 30. The bill provides tax relief for employers who implement student loan repayment programs, allowing a company to pay up to $5,250 of an employee’s student loan payments each year on a tax-free basis.

- **Preventing Evictions and Providing Shelter for the Homeless** – The CARES Act includes more than $7 billion to help prevent evictions – and provide shelter for people experiencing homelessness.
Coronavirus Relief Bill Approved by Congress

Here’s how the bill will help Pittsburghers:

- **Small Business Assistance** – The CARES Act created a $350 billion Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to provide zero interest, forgivable loans to small businesses and nonprofits for paying their workers, and to help pay for other expenses like rent, mortgage, and utilities. The CARES Act also contains $10 billion for SBA emergency grants of up to $10,000 to provide immediate relief for small business operating costs – and $17 billion to cover 6 months of payments for small businesses with existing SBA loans. Sole-proprietors, independent contractors, and other self-employed individuals are eligible for all of the SBA loans and grants, including refinancing existing SBA loans or a disaster loan into a PPP forgivable loan.

- **Essential Help for Our Health Care Providers** – The CARES Act included $150 billion to help hospitals and other health care providers to pay for whatever they need to care for people infected by the coronavirus and keep their personnel safe. The funding can be used, for example, to pay for testing supplies, ventilators, personal protective equipment for health care workers, more workers, training, new construction to house patients, and emergency operation centers. The bill also includes $16 billion for new investments in the Strategic National Stockpile, surge capacity, and medical research on COVID-19.

- **Support for Emergency Workers** – The CARES Act includes $3.5 billion to help provide child care assistance to health care sector employees, emergency responders, sanitation workers, and other workers deemed essential during the response to the coronavirus.
Coronavirus Relief Bill Approved by Congress
Here’s how the bill will help Pittsburghers:

- **Assistance for State and Local Governments** – The CARES Act also includes more than $150 billion to assist states, tribes, and local governments, as well as private non-profits performing critical and essential services, in paying for expenses related to their COVID-19 response. In addition, the bill provides $30 billion to provide emergency support to local school systems and higher education institutions so that they can continue to provide educational services to their students. It also provides $25 billion in aid to our nation’s transit systems to help protect public health and safety while ensuring continued access to jobs, medical treatment, food, and other essentials. Finally, the CARES Act includes more than $6 billion for Community Development Block Grants and other economic development funding to help mitigate the local economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic and the measures taken to slow it.

- **Help for Industries and Workers Hurt by the Coronavirus Outbreak** – Finally, the CARES Act provides $500 billion for loans to larger businesses especially hard-hit by the coronavirus outbreak and the government response. The loans are intended to help these companies weather the shutdown and keep paying their workers so those employees can pay their bills. The bill includes a number of restrictions on the loans to ensure that the loan is used as intended, such as: the companies getting the loans can’t buy back their stock or pay dividends to shareholders for the length of the loan plus one year; executive compensation can’t be increased during the life of the loan; collective bargaining agreements must be protected and complied with over the life of the loan; the loans can not go to businesses controlled by the President, Vice President, Members of Congress, or the heads of U.S. government departments. The bill also includes rigorous oversight measures, such as requirements for real-time public reporting of these loans, including terms, investments, or other assistance to corporations – as well as the creation of several oversight bodies including a Treasury Department Special Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery, a Pandemic Response Accountability Committee, and a Congressional Oversight Commission.
Contact Information

- **Staff Emails:**
  - CChaney@pahouse.net
  - KClark@pahouse.net
  - LHammonds@pahouse.net
  - TGraham@pahouse.net

- **Our calls are being forwarded so, please feel free to call our office at:** (412) 471-7760

- **Social Media:**
  - Facebook: JJ Wheatley
  - Rep. Wheatley
  - Instagram: JJ Wheatley
Response at the City

Councilman Dan Lavelle
Mission Statement: To ensure the district is made attractive, safe and prosperous for everyone, by advocating for legislation and policies that promote and foster an equitable City of Pittsburgh in the areas of public safety, workforce development, housing, economic development and access to quality education.

The City of Pittsburgh, Department of Public Safety and Emergency Management Agency are working in consultation with the Allegheny County Health Department, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.
City tax deadline extension to July 15
- Moratorium on delinquent real estate billings and late fee charges
- Suspension of Treasurer’s Sales of properties

Pittsburgh Financial Empowerment Center
- Free, one-on-one counseling on financial planning
- Operating online due to COVID-19
- Contacts to schedule a session: 1-800-298-0237, fecinfo@advantageccs.org
- https://pittsburghpa.gov/mayor/FEC

Meals to Seniors Program
- Contact 412-350-5460 to register for free senior meal delivery program
Operational Changes During COVID-19

- Services and offices that will remain operational
  - Emergency services (Police, Fire, EMS, Animal Control)
  - Inspections of infrastructure
  - City parks
  - City Council
  - City Planning, PLI, DOMI all to continue issuing permits, intaking applications online: [pittsburghpa.gov/onestoppgh/](http://pittsburghpa.gov/onestoppgh/)
  - 311
- Refuse and recycling collection
Services and offices that are closed

- Senior healthy active living centers
- Recreation centers
- City park shelters and fields (refunds provided to those that made reservations by emailing allison.botti@pittsburghpa.gov)
- City park water fountains and restrooms
- In person permit counters (permits issued and requested online: pittsburghpa.gov/onestoppgh/)
- Special events permits
- Treasurer sales
- Parks & Rec programming
- Street cleaning
- Parking enforcement
Open Q&A
Thank you!