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CABHN FEVER



Apply Now for Winter Heating Assistance

The community action agencies (CAA) have begun accepting applications for winter heating assistance on August 2nd, only at the Community Action Agencies (CAA's).

Although applications are being taken, no grants will be made until the income eligibility guidelines and benefits have been set. Even with early applications, benefits are not expected to be paid before November 1 (the state could modify this date, but it is unlikely).

Contact your local CAA directly to apply for energy assistance:

Town	Contact Number
Bridgeport	203-384-6904
Bristol	806-582-7490
Danbury	203-748-5422
Derby-Ansonia-Shelton	203-736-5420
Hartford	860-560-5800 & 1-800-798-3805
Meriden	203-235-0278
Middletown	860-347-4465 x.223 or 224
New Britain	860-223-2288
New Haven	203-387-7700
Norwalk	203-899-2484
Norwich-New London	860-425-6681
Stamford	203-352-4846
Waterbury	203-756-8151
Willimantic	860-450-7423

DSS (energy hotline – 1-800-842-1132) or 211 will have updated lists as local volunteer sites begin accepting applications.

(See Eligibility Requirements p. 2)

National Suit Drive!

The Urban League of Greater Hartford has partnered again with Men’s Wearhouse for the 3rd Annual National Suit Drive. This year the ULGH has selected Ebenezer Temple, Inc. of Hartford to help with the storage and distribution of clothing.

Please participate by donating your gently used personal attire at your nearest Men’s Wearhouse during September. You are giving more than clothing – you’re giving a second chance. All contributions are tax deductible and will be distributed throughout the community by the Urban League and Ebenezer Temple, Inc. Are you in need of receiving clothing for a job interview or for work? Contact:

Urban League 140 Woodland St., Hartford 860-728-4286 (Bruce Sievers) Find out more at: www.nationalsuitdrive.com	Ebenezer Temple 2194 Main St., Hartford 860-247-5752 (Rianne Gamble)
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**Saturday, October 23, 2010;
7:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m.;**
CT Convention Center in Hartford

Put yourself in the driver’s seat on the road to financial success by attending a free conference. Presented by YWCA Hartford Region, the Money Conference for Women focuses on money management, budgeting, and investing for all women of all ages. This conference features Michelle Singletary, nationally syndicated columnist and author, workshops, expo, free resource materials, and complimentary refreshments. Take control of your financial futures!

Registration began August 16, 2010
www.ctmoneyconferenceforwomen.com.

Sign Up for State Emergency Notification Alerts

The state of Connecticut is now signing up residents for a statewide emergency notification system, the first comprehensive one of its kind in the U.S., according to state officials. CT Alert allows state authorities to communicate critical information to its residents before, during and after emergencies. The system is a fast and efficient way for Connecticut authorities to reach residents during events such as natural disasters and public-health emergencies, officials said. Some towns in Connecticut - such as Mystic and Pawcatuck - already have used the CT Alert system to help people stranded by storms in the spring.

For more information, please visit <http://www.ct.gov/dps/cwp/view.asp?Q=462250&A=11>.



Eligibility Requirements (Continued from p. 1)

All Fuels Program, open from August 2nd through Oct. 31st:

Fuel Bank Assistance Available Beginning August 2nd

Operation Fuel has two current programs for providing energy assistance, both of which could be very helpful in resolving utility shut-offs and setting up long-term payment agreements. To find a local fuel bank, contact 2-1-1 or Operation Fuel at 860-243-2345.

Operation Fuel supplements Connecticut's regular winter heating energy assistance program which may open early for applications but is not likely to provide benefits before November 1 -- the state plan has not yet been adopted so we don't know the final program rules for the upcoming winter.

To be eligible:

- household income must be less than 200% of the federal poverty level (\$1,805/mo. for one person; \$3,052/mo. for three people).
- It must be at least one year since the household got help from Operation Fuel. The benefit is \$300.

If assistance sought is for a gas or electric bill:

- the household must have made at least four payments to the utility within the past 12 months, including one during the moratorium (Nov. 1 to May1) – it doesn't matter how much was paid, only that 4 payments were made.

Lastly, the household has to document an emergency, such as:

- applicant either collects or has exhausted unemployment benefits; or
- the health of someone in the household is threatened, for example:
 - utility service is needed to refrigerate medications or baby formula;
 - utility service is needed to operate medical equipment;
 - utility service is needed for air

conditioning when there is a medical condition like asthma that requires air conditioning; or

- oil is needed to heat water and there is a health risk if there is no hot water.

Gas and Electric Utility Program for families with a pregnant woman or child 18 years or under in the household, open from August 2nd through Sept. 30th:

To be eligible:

- household income must be less than 75% of the state median income (\$4,320/mo. for two people; \$6,353/mo. for four people).

The benefit is \$500, which must be used for utility bills that are less than 30 days old or as a credit for future bills. Citizens and certain documented immigrants may be provided benefits.

New Fact Sheets on Head Start and Early Head Start Programs in 2009

Based on Head Start Program Information Report (PIR) data, CLASP has released two new fact sheets providing a snapshot of the characteristics of children enrolled in the programs and the services provided to them during the 2008-2009 program year. Some key facts:

- In 2009, the Head Start preschool program served more than 900,000 young children and their families through nearly 1,800 grantees nationwide.
- Among children in Head Start preschool programs, 12 percent had a disability, about half of whom were diagnosed during the program year.

- Spanish was the primary home language for 24 percent of children in Head Start preschool programs.
- In 2009, the Early Head Start program served more than 83,000 children under age 3 and about 9,600 pregnant women through 727 grantees/delegates nationwide.
- Among families served by EHS, 65 percent included at least one working parent, and 22 percent included at least one parent in school or job training.
- By the end of the program year, 97 percent of EHS children had a medical home for ongoing care.

Read more about the Head Start preschool program and Early Head Start in 2009. Connecticut Head Start programs are administered and operated by community action agencies, local education agencies and other nonprofit agencies. Access the full report: http://www.clasp.org/resources_and_publications/filter?type=reports_and_analyses

2010 Kids Count Data Book now Available

The Annie E. Casey Foundation has released its annual data book. The report indicates that overall improvements in child well-being that began in the late 1990s stalled in the years just before the current economic downturn. Please see the full report for national data and state-by-state data, as well as rankings on 10 key indicators of child well-being. Connecticut ranks 8th in child well-being.

The report can be found at: <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/DataBook/2010/OnlineBooks/2010DataBook.pdf>

The 2010 Summary of Public Acts is now available on-line at www.larcc.org/documents/summary_public_acts_2010.pdf

Clean Election Act

-submitted by Common Cause of CT

On Friday, August 13th, the Connecticut House of Representatives voted 106 to 30 to override Governor Jodi Rell’s veto of Senate Bill 551, An Act Concerning Clean Elections. This followed a 23-12 override vote in the State Senate on July 30th. By voting for an override in both the House and Senate, the Connecticut General Assembly has lifted a cloud that has been hanging over the Citizens’ Election Program, Connecticut’s system of public financing for state elections. A court challenge to the program threatened to scuttle the whole program and undo the strongest campaign finance reform in the nation. By passing An Act Concerning Clean Elections and voting to override Governor Rell’s veto, the Connecticut General Assembly addressed issues challenging the program. Candidates for office in 2010 and beyond can now continue to rely on a system of campaign finance reform that works and the people of the state can look to a state government that represents their interests, not just those of special interests.

Thanks to legislative leaders and all the legislators who voted for the override. We also want to thank all of the Common Cause members and other state activists who worked hard to convince their representatives that fixing the program was the right thing to do for the people of Connecticut.

Now, looking forward to clean elections in November, Common Cause in Connecticut is working hard to help citizens of Connecticut realize just how important their vote is. The August primary showed poor voter turnout all over the state, averaging 28%. Hartford, New Haven, and Bridgeport had turnout rates of only 14 – 21%, comparing poorly with Simsbury’s 34%, and 32% in Stamford. We need your help to improve on this for the November election. Please help us reach out and encourage people to vote. Contact Kim Hynes at (203) 979-4676 or khynes@commoncause.org.



A Question You May Want To Ask Potential Legislators:

Do you support home- and community-based long-term care for everyone who wishes to stay in or return to their homes regardless of age, diagnosis or disability?

The campaign season provides numerous opportunities for advocacy for home- and community-based long-term care, guaranteeing that care is available for us all when needed.

At the end of the 2010 campaign season, elections will be held to elect a new governor, state representatives and state senators. These elections provide unique opportunities to advocate for enhanced home- and community-based long-term care.

Use these opportunities to ask questions!

- when candidates come knocking at your door
- at the supermarket, when candidates are shaking hands
- at candidate nights in your area
- on call-in radio shows where candidates are guests

Ask your friends, family and neighbors to ask the question. Also, think about setting up candidate forums, writing a letter to the editor asking local candidates their position, contact your local newspaper's editorial board and ask them to include the question in candidate interview. Make a difference!

Connecticut Primary Results

On Tuesday, August 10th, Connecticut residents went to the polls to vote in the Primary Elections. We’ve included some key results.

Connecticut State Offices	
Governor	Democrat: Dan Malloy Republican: Tom Foley
Lieutenant Governor	Democrat: Nancy Wyman Republican: Mark Boughton
Attorney General	Republican: Martha Dean
Comptroller	Democrat: Kevin Lembo
Secretary of the State	Democrat: Denise Merrill
Connecticut Congressional Primary Races:	
Republican for U.S. Senate	Linda McMahon
Republican for 1st District	Ann Brickley
Republican for 2nd District	Janet Peckinpaugh
Republican for 4th District	Dan DeBicella
Republican for 5th District	Sam S.F. Caligiuri

A full list of results can be found at http://www.ctn.state.ct.us/election_results.asp. This includes the results of the contests for the Connecticut General Assembly as well.

Connecticut Network for Legal Aid

Free legal info for people with very low income

The Connecticut Network for Legal Aid consists of several nonprofit legal services organizations whose shared mission is to improve the lives of Connecticut's poorest citizens by providing free legal services to low-income individuals. This Web site, funded by the Connecticut Bar Foundation and the Legal Services Corporation, seeks to further the goal of equal access to justice by providing information and self-help materials on a variety of legal issues.

Generally, applicants should call Statewide Legal Services first to find out if they qualify for services. Call (800) 453-3320 or (860) 344-0380 between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Visit www.ctnla.org for more information and access to legal help.

Non-Profits at Risk!

Nationwide almost 300,000 nonprofits are at-risk of losing their status because of the law passed in 2006 that requires small nonprofits to file an annual tax return for the first time. The law is being enforced for the first time this year! Previously, these organizations with gross expenditures and donations totaling \$25,000 or less were exempt from filing a return.

To print the necessary form Form 990-N (e-Postcard) and for more info, go to <http://www.irs.gov/charities/> You must respond by Oct. 15, 2010!

**Subscribe and receive
CABHN Fever
Newsletters and Alerts
electronically. Contact Ellen
Billard (ESmall@larcc.org or
call 860-278-5688 x208)**

Upcoming CABHN/FESN Meeting

**Friday
October 8th
9:30-11:30 A.M.**

Location:

**The Lyceum
227 Lawrence St.
Hartford**

The Connecticut Alliance for Basic Human Needs (CABHN) is a statewide network of individuals, community groups and organizations which supports and promotes advocacy on low-income issues. For more information, please call (860) 278-5688.

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**Legal Assistance Resource Center of CT and
CABHN (Connecticut Alliance for Basic Human Needs)**
44 Capitol Ave., Suite 301
Hartford, CT 06106



September 2010

Dear Friend,

We are writing to ask for your support at a critical time for CABHN, the CT Alliance for Basic Human Needs. **We are turning to you, as past supporters and current participants in CABHN, to ask that you renew your support so that we can continue to produce and distribute *CABHN Fever* and to bring the voices of low-income people to the policy discussions that affect their lives.**

Throughout this year, we have gratefully received continuing support from dedicated supporters.

With these resources, we have:

- **published ten editions of *CABHN Fever* per year**, with articles updating readers on health care, welfare, the state budget, and other important state and federal issues;
- convened twelve joint meetings of **CABHN** and the **Family Economic Success Network**.
- maintained an **e-mail alert and information network** for immediate contact with the most active members of CABHN;
- worked with partner organizations to host the 2010 ***Prospering Communities, Thriving Families gubernatorial forum*** held at Manchester Community College
- Conducted an advocacy project on TANF Reauthorization in 2010, conducting statewide focus groups with cash-assistance recipients; we are currently working with a broader group of advocates/providers to make recommendations as to how Connecticut can improve its Jobs First Employment Services program serving TANF clients

Unfortunately, CABHN faces reduced funding and the necessity of finding new financial resources. ***The majority of CABHN funding goes to publishing CABHN Fever.***

Please help us continue to publish this important resource. Organizational donations of \$100 or more and individual donations of \$25 or more would help us continue the work of CABHN in the coming year.

Thank you for your support and for all the important work that you do.

Sincerely,

Ellen Small
CABHN Coordinator

Jane McNichol
Executive Director, LARCC

YES, I would like to support the important work of CABHN through my contribution of:

_____ **\$100**

_____ **\$75**

_____ **\$50**

_____ **\$25**

_____ **Other amount**

Please send donations to:

**CABHN
c/o LARCC
44 Capitol Avenue, Suite 301
Hartford, CT 06106**

In addition, I would like to be added to the following CABHN email lists:

_____ **CABHN Fever electronic version**

_____ **CABHN action alerts and important updates**

_____ **CABHN's monthly request for submission list**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Organization Name: _____