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# CABHN FEVER



## Operation Fuel Assistance Now Available

Operation Fuel utility assistance program will be providing assistance from May 2 through June 30th for households with income up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). The benefit is \$200, and is only available if the household did not receive assistance from the fuel bank in the past 12 months.

Operation Fuel is an emergency energy assistance program. An Operation Fuel energy grant is not an entitlement to all Connecticut residents who fall within the income guidelines. Operation Fuel energy grants are for households which fall within the income guidelines, and are faced with a financial crisis.

Financial crisis is defined as the inability of a family to pay for an outstanding gas or electric bill. For example, a household is faced with the decision to choose between paying for their energy needs or buying food, paying the rent or mortgage, or paying medical bills as a result of unemployment, limited or fixed income, illness, death, or other emergencies.

For a list of contact information, visit <http://www.operationfuel.org/getting-help/> or call INFO line 2-1-1.

### Operation Fuel Income Eligibility Guidelines 2010-2011

- ✓ Households with incomes between 0% and 200% of Federal Poverty Guidelines
- ✓ All grants require prior approval
- ✓ All Energy Sources Heat & Non-Heat
- ✓ Maximum Grant \$200
- ✓ Gas & Electric Utilities

Number of Persons in Household	Household Gross Income
--------------------------------	------------------------

1	\$ 21,660
2	\$ 29,140
3	\$ 36,620
4	\$ 44,100
5	\$ 51,580
6	\$ 59,060
7	\$ 66,540
8	\$ 74,020

## Help For Those Facing Foreclosure

Connecticut is one of five states that have just received approval to administer a new zero interest loan program for homeowners facing foreclosure. The Emergency Homeowners Loan Program (EHLPP) provides loans up to \$50,000 for a maximum of two years for eligible Connecticut homeowners who are at least 90 days delinquent on their mortgage payments.

EHLPP is designed to assist unemployed or underemployed families pay their mortgages if they meet certain qualifications while they look for jobs. The program is administered by the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority and runs April 1 through September 30, 2011. Dial 2-1-1 or visit <http://www.chfa.org> for more information.

## Have items to donate? Check with 2-1-1!

There are many organizations, individuals and families who can benefit from donations of personal and household goods. If you're spring cleaning and have items to donate, dial 2-1-1 or visit [www.211ct.org](http://www.211ct.org), enter your town and click on "Donation Options" under Browse Categories on the left side of the screen. You will find places to donate clothing, computers, furniture and much more.

## CT Ranked as Sixth Most-Expensive Place to Rent in Nation

From new report by the National Low-Income Housing Coalition

In Connecticut, the Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom apartment is \$1,215. In order to afford this level of rent and utilities, without paying more than 30% of income on housing, a household must earn \$4,052 monthly or \$48,619 annually. Assuming a 40-hour work week, 52 weeks per year, this level of income translates into a Housing Wage of \$23.37.

To afford the Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom apartment in Connecticut, a minimum hourly wage worker (\$8.25/hr), must work 113 hours per week, 52 weeks per year. Or, a household must include 2.8 minimum wage earner(s) working 40 hours per week year-round in order to make the two bedroom FMR affordable.

In Connecticut, the estimated mean (average) wage for a renter is \$15.10 an hour. In order to afford the FMR for a two-bedroom apartment at this wage, a renter must work 62 hours per week, 52 weeks per year. Or, working 40 hours per week year-round, a household must include 1.5 worker(s) earning the mean renter wage in order to make the two-bedroom FMR affordable.

To access the full report, go to <http://www.nlihc.org/oor/oor2010/>

## Improving Health & Housing Opportunities for LGBT Youth

*From the Reaching Home Campaign:*

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has recommended a list of actions to improve the health and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities. Specifically, HHS now requires all organizations serving runaway and homeless youth to be equipped to serve LGBT youth, who represent a disproportionate segment of the homeless youth population.

Additionally, HHS has begun a targeted effort to improve data collection for homeless and runaway LGBT youth through the Runaway Homeless Youth Information Management System; and, HHS now allows homeless and runaway youth providers to apply for funds to specifically serve LGBT youth.

More information can be found at: <http://www.hhs.gov/secretary/about/lgbthealth.html>

## Census Bureau Population Profile

The U.S. Census Bureau has begun releasing the Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics for the first set of states. These demographic profiles provide the most detailed data yet from the 2010 Census, including information on age and sex distributions, race, ethnicity, housing and relationships. The profiles are being released throughout May for all 50 states, D.C. and Puerto Rico.

You can access the interactive map to explore the data down to the city level at: <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/popmap/>

By clicking the tabs at the top of the map, users can reveal the demographic data for their selected locations. Interactive options also allow users to make population comparisons between communities across the country.

## CABHN Partners with Brake the Cycle and FoodShare for Poverty-Awareness Ride!



On June 28th, CABHN will partner with FoodShare to host the finale event for the Brake the Cycle annual ride across Connecticut to raise awareness of poverty in Connecticut.

The cycling team, *Brake the Cycle*, organizes an annual bike ride across the state to raise awareness on the reality of poverty in Connecticut.

The original Brake the Cycle of Poverty Ride began on June 1, 2003. In association with the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, 24 cyclists rode for two months from San Francisco to Washington, DC to raise the consciousness of poverty in the United States, stopping along the way at various faith community groups. Their mission:

- ✓ to educate about poverty issues
- ✓ to talk about effective ways to eliminate the effects of poverty
- ✓ to urge people to take action

Now the group holds an annual five-day ride through Connecticut! This year the tour will take them through towns such as Manchester, Rocky Hill, Milford, and Southbury, and end in Bloomfield at FoodShare for a finale event co-sponsored by CABHN and FoodShare!

Please join us for this event on Tuesday, June 28th at 12:30 pm at FoodShare in Bloomfield. We hope to see you at the end of the ride!

For more information, or to get involved in the ride, contact Lou Terzo at [twoterzos@att.net](mailto:twoterzos@att.net).

## World Refugee Day Celebration in New Haven



World Refugee Day is an international day of awareness, designated by the United Nations, to honor refugees, persecuted people from around the world.

The focus of IRIS's celebration will be "Stories of a New America," an original work of theater created and performed by Collective Consciousness Theatre (CCT) with refugees resettling in New Haven. The work is based on the real-life resettlement experiences of refugees who came from Iraq, Afghanistan, the Congo, Chad, and other countries and now live in Greater New Haven.

In addition to the premier performance of Stories, World Refugee Day offers African drumming and

dance, live music, visual art and photography, and an incredible spread of international food.

The event is presented with generous support from PIER (Programs in International Educational Resources) of the MacMillan Center at Yale University.

Luce Hall  
34 Hillhouse Ave.,  
NewHaven, CT  
Wednesday, June 22  
5:00pm - 9:00pm

**Suggested Donation is \$20**

Identical performances of Stories of a New America will be at 6:00 and 8:00am.

Visit [www.irisct.org](http://www.irisct.org) or [www.socialchangetheatre.org](http://www.socialchangetheatre.org) for more information.

**Do you have a contribution for our newsletter? Great!**

**Email Ellen Small Billard**  
**([ESmall@larcc.org](mailto:ESmall@larcc.org))**  
**or call 860-278-5688 x208**

**If you would like to make an online donation to support CABHN,**  
**you can do so through Pay Pal at [www.larcc.org](http://www.larcc.org)**

## State Budget for the Next Two Years

Adopting a balanced state budget for the next two state fiscal years (July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2013) is the major task of the 2011 legislative session. On May 4, the Governor signed a “budget” but it contains a hole of \$1 billion in each of the two fiscal years. The Governor’s assumption is that state employee concessions will fill that hole. If these concessions are not successfully negotiated, the Governor and the legislature will have to adopt alternative measures to fill the \$2 billion hole.

The May 4 budget contains a mixture of spending cuts, savings through agency consolidations and tax increases. Most of the spending cuts in the social service area are thoughtfully crafted to minimize disruption in needed services. The budget maintains the 30% Earned Income Tax Credit proposed by Governor Malloy in February and eliminates the co-pays on

Medicaid services that the Governor had proposed. Unspecified changes in the Medicaid Low-Income Adult program remain in the budget and are of concern.

On May 6, the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) released a list of cuts which would be considered if the negotiations with state employees did not result in \$2 billion in savings. This list is being referred to as “Plan B”. The Governor has said that he will not consider further tax increases as part of his Plan B. The OPM list of options includes layoffs of 4,750 state employees and devastating cuts to social services.

As of May 10, negotiations between the Malloy administration and the state employees unions had not yielded results but were continuing. Layoff notices were sent to 4,750 state employees. Notices are required to be sent in early May in order for layoffs to be effective on July 1.

### Special Thanks!

CABHN would like to thank Maggie Adair, Deputy Director of the Connecticut Association for Human Services (CAHS), for her partnership with CABHN through her work as coordinator of CAHS’s Family Economic Success Network.

CABHN and the FES Network hold joint monthly meetings to educate and organize providers and advocates on policy issues affecting Connecticut’s low-income families. In June, Maggie will be leaving her position with CAHS to become Executive Director of the Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance. We appreciate all the work Maggie has done in the years she has been with CAHS, and we wish her the best in her new position.

CABHN looks forward to continued partnership with CAHS and the FES Network under a new policy director.

## How You Can Support SB 1230

The Community Party urges you to contact your legislators regarding SB 1230 An Act Concerning Traffic Stop Information, which was drafted by the Community Party as an amendment to the Alvin W. Penn Act, the state’s racial profiling law. To find out details on supporting this Bill, check out the Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/PennAct](http://www.facebook.com/PennAct). For information on how to contact your legislators, go to <http://votesmart.org>.

*Submitted by David Samuels, Founder Community Party*

**Did you know?** *Hartford Hospital provides FREE colonoscopies to women who have no health insurance. Call Dorely Roldan at 860-545-1582.*

## New Online Customer Assistance Form

The Department of Banking has developed a new Online Customer Assistance Form as a convenient and secure way for the public to submit inquiries or complaints to the agency. You can access the form at [http://www.ct.gov/dob/cwp/view.asp?a=2235&q=297974&dobNAV\\_GID=1659](http://www.ct.gov/dob/cwp/view.asp?a=2235&q=297974&dobNAV_GID=1659).

## Food That’s In When School Is Out



Statewide, hunger affects tens of thousands of children who are used to getting free or reduced-price meals at school. The federal Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) fills this gap by providing free meals to kids 18 and under at schools, parks, recreation centers, and summer camps.

Hunger hits families even harder during the summer months. Fortunately, Connecticut has hundred of locations/sites where kids can go for a no cost meal - sometimes breakfast, lunch-or even supper. To find a site call United Way 2-1-1 or End Hunger CT! at (860) 560-2100 ext. 303.

**Coming soon!** Visit [www.ctsummerfood.org](http://www.ctsummerfood.org) to enter your location and find the open summer food site nearest you!

For more information on Summer Food, e-mail [dcrayco@endhungerct.org](mailto:dcrayco@endhungerct.org).

*The Summer Food Service Program is administered by the Connecticut State Department of Education and funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service.*

### More Reasons to Support Summer Food

1. Summer food stretches a family’s food budget
2. Meals follow federal nutritional guidelines that reinforce life-long healthy eating habits
3. Meals usually coincide with opportunities for recreation keeping kids physically active and engaged

## Health Fair in Hartford

The Parkville Senior Center is celebrating its 40th Anniversary by teaming up with the Charter Oak Health Center to sponsor a Health Fair on Thursday, June 16th from 10:00am – 2:00 pm. Services available will include screenings ranging from blood pressure to oral cancer and more. There will be music, guest speakers, and zumba! The event will be held at 11 New Park Ave., Hartford. For more information, contact Margaret Merriman or David Yonan at the Parkville Senior Center: (860) 232-7867. We hope to see you there!

## Diaper Drive to Benefit Diaper Bank in New Haven



Mama Bears Consignment Boutique will be conducting a Diaper Drive throughout the month of May to benefit the Diaper Bank. Mama Bears is located at 2400 Foxon Road (Route 80) in North Branford, CT 06471. Their hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Friday - 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.; and Saturday - 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Drop offs are daily until 4:00 pm. Help support the Diaper Bank!

## Upcoming CABHN/FESN Meeting

**Friday  
May 20th  
9:30-11:30 A.M.**

**Location:**

**AARP  
21 Oak Street**

**Corner of Oak & Capitol  
Avenue  
Hartford**

## Sponsor a Baby Through the Diaper Bank

If you would like to sponsor a baby, do so by making an annual donation of \$250 to The Diaper Bank or by setting up a recurring monthly donation of \$21 through The Diaper Bank website [www.thediaperbank.org](http://www.thediaperbank.org) Each sponsorship enables The Diaper Bank to subsidize approximately 25% of a baby's annual supply of diapers.

*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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