

Highlights in this issue:

| | |
|--|-----------|
| <i>Pfizer program for uninsured.....</i> | <i>p2</i> |
| <i>SNAP Updates.....</i> | <i>p2</i> |
| <i>Sustinet & Healthcare Vetoed.....</i> | <i>p3</i> |
| <i>Tenant Foreclosure Protection.....</i> | <i>p3</i> |

CABHN FEVER

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. According to a recent report by the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), an average of 2.9 million children were served nationally in July last summer, a 1.7% increase over the previous summer. There is no doubt hunger will hit families even harder due to the poor economy. Fortunately, this year, there are more program sponsors and sites where kids can go for a no cost meal-sometimes breakfast, lunch-or even supper. To find a site nearest you, please call United Way 2-1-1 or End Hunger CT! at (860) 560-2100 ext. 303.

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.

For more information on Summer Food, e-mail dcrayco@endhungerct.org. Submitted by Dawn Crayco, EHC!

Having Trouble Paying Your Bills?

This program could help!

Connecticut Money School (CMS) provides free financial education for adults and seniors. Everyone should have the opportunity to become financially stable and successful. Money know-how is for everyone, no matter what income level! ☞

HUSKY A: Families Have New PCCM Choice

HUSKY A families in the greater Waterbury and greater Windham areas can choose to access their health care through a new program called HUSKY Primary Care. HUSKY Primary Care is an alternative to receiving health care through the HUSKY HMOs (Aetna, AmeriChoice and Community Health Network of CT). In HUSKY Primary Care (also called Primary Care Case Management or PCCM), enrollees can choose their own doctor who will then coordinate and manage their care. This means that your doctor will make choices about your routine health care and decide when you need to see a specialist, arrange specialist visits and tests for you and link you to community resources and services. They will not have to get authorization for treatment from an insurance company (HMO).

However, the doctor (also called a primary care physician or "PCP") you choose *must* be one of those participating in the HUSKY Primary Care Program. Although each member of a family must choose to enroll in the HUSKY Primary Care option, they don't all have to have the same PCP. Clinics as well as APRNs

and Physician's Assistants in some practices can also qualify as PCPs.

To find out if the PCP of your choice is already enrolled in the program you can visit www.cthealthpolicy.org or www.huskyhealth.com (click on enrollment), or call Ellen Andrews at the CT Health Policy Project at (203) 562-1636 or call the HUSKY enrollment center at 1-800-656-6684. If the PCP you want is not enrolled, you can either switch to one who is or ask your preferred PCP to enroll in the program. Call Ellen Andrews at the CT Health Policy Project (number above) for help and information to give to your provider about this. For more information or assistance in enrolling your family in HUSKY Primary Care, call the above numbers or Sheldon Toubman at New Haven Legal Assistance (203-946-4811).

HUSKY Primary Care will also be available to HUSKY A families in Hartford, New Haven and surrounding towns starting no later than January 1, 2010 and will most likely become a state-wide option after July 15, 2010.

Class Topics Include:

- Debt Savings
- Credit Loans
- Health Care Homeownership
- Senior Issues (Long-term Care, Retirement, Fraud Prevention)

Classes are offered in Bridgeport, New Haven and Hartford, right in your community!

Students interested in learning more about how to manage money and instructors who can help teach

quality financial education, are now being recruited.

To sign up for a class: Dial 2-1-1 or go to: www.ctmoney.org

To become an instructor or to host a class: go to: www.ctmoney.org

For information, call Ellen Carter at (860) 951-2212, ext. 230

CMS is a project of the Connecticut Association for Human Services (CAHS) and five non-profit partners.

Pfizer Launches Program For Unemployed

MAINTAIN (Medicines Assistance for Those who Are in Need) is a new program designed to help recently unemployed Americans and their families who have lost their insurance and who are taking Pfizer medicines to continue treatment at no cost for up to one year.

The program will be open for enrollment through December 31, 2009 and applies to eligible Americans who have become unemployed since January 1, 2009.

Eligibility requirements of the MAINTAIN program include:

- loss of employment since January 1, 2009;
- prescribed and taking a Pfizer medicine for at least 3 months prior to unemployment and enrolling in the program;
- lack of prescription drug coverage;
- can attest to financial hardship.

Those who qualify will receive their Pfizer medicines at no cost for up to 12 months or until they become re-insured (whichever occurs first). Go to: <http://www.pfizerhelpfulanswers.com/pages/programs/Medicines.aspx?p=116> for list of available medicines.

For more information, including how to apply, call 1-866-706-2400 or go to: www.PfizerHelpfulAnswers.com.

(Source: The Perkins Partnership, June 3, 2009)

If you would like to sign up for CABHN meeting and action alerts highlighting community events and legislative updates through email, please contact

*Ellen Small
esmall@larcc.org or call
860-278-5688 x208.*

SafeLink Free Wireless Service

SafeLink is a phone company that is offering free service, 64 minutes per month, for one year, to anyone in CT who qualifies for one of the following programs:

- Care for Kids
- Connecticut Energy Assistance Program
- CONNPACE
- Contingency Heating Assistance Program
- Federal Public Housing Assistance / Section 8
- Food Stamps
- Medicaid/Title 19 (including HUSKY and Healthy Start)
- Personal Care Assistance
- Refugee Program
- Rental Assistance
- State Administered General Assistance (SAGA)
- State Supplement to the Aged, Blind, or Disabled
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Family Assistance

NOTE: If someone in your household is receiving Lifeline Assistance through another carrier, you must cancel the service before applying for Lifeline Service through SafeLink Wireless.

For shipment of your FREE phone you must live at a residence that can receive mail from the U.S. Post Office, P.O. Boxes cannot be accepted.

After 64 minutes, you have to buy Tracfone minutes on a card.

For information, go to: <https://www.safelinkwireless.com/EnrollmentPublic/faq.aspx#>

Link to this article in the Wall Street Journal for program explanation: <http://www.marketwatch.com/story/tracfone-wireless-launches-safelink-wireless-to-aid-259710-low-income-households-in-connecticut>

Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program

Employment & Training 50% Reimbursement Program

The purpose of the SNAP E&T program is to help SNAP recipients who are not receiving TFA assistance to gain work skills and become employed. Activities allowable under this program include, job search/job readiness skills, job training, education, and work experience. Under this program, the state is reimbursed 50% of non-federal, non-matching funds expended on eligible employment and training activities for SNAP recipients not receiving TFA benefits. Connecticut currently has four contractors of this program serving Hartford, New Haven, Bridgeport, and Stamford-Norwalk.

Types of workforce training programs include:

- Certified Nurses Aid
- Patient Care Technician
- Customer Service/Retail
- Hospitality Management
- Manufacturing Basic Training
- Medical Office Management
- Small Business Management

Currently, the Department of Social Services has a Memorandum of Agreement with Capitol Community College (Hartford) to provide up to \$435,000 in SNAP – ET reimbursement annually to CCC. Capitol Community College is using these funds to provide scholarships and reduce tuition cost for SNAP recipients.

If you are currently receiving SNAP benefits and live in the Hartford area, you may be eligible for a full scholarship in a variety of workforce training programs. For more information, please call (860) 906-5130.

SustiNet and Healthcare Partnership Bills Vetoed Federal Law Expands Protections for Tenants in Foreclosure

On July 8, 2009, Governor M. Jodi Rell vetoed two bills seeking to increase access to quality and affordable healthcare for Connecticut residents. The Sustinet bill (H.B.6600) would have established a Board of Directors to implement a health insurance program and the Healthcare Partnership, also known as the ‘pooling’ bill (H.B.6582), would have opened the state employee health insurance program to employees of municipalities, non-profit organizations and small businesses. The State House of Representatives and the State Senate both voted in favor of these bills during the regular Session. Both bills will now be brought before the General Assembly again in an attempt to override the Governor’s veto of these bills. The veto session is scheduled for Monday, July 20th.

For more information about the bills and to find out what you can do, visit www.healthcare4every1.org.

New SNAP Rules Will Get More Food to More People!

Beginning July 1, 2009:

- The gross income limit will increase to 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for most SNAP households;
- Most SNAP households will no longer be subject to an asset test; and
- Most SNAP households will no longer be subject to a net income test.

The only households for whom there will still be an asset test and a net income test are those elderly or disabled households whose gross income exceeds 185% of FPL.

Those households are technically not eligible for "Help for People in Need" (although DSS will still mail them a brochure) and are therefore not categorically *Continued on page 4*

On May 20, 2009, a new federal law expanding protections for tenants in foreclosed buildings took effect. The law guarantees that such tenants will have at least 90 days to move after a foreclosure action.

The new law is known officially as the “Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act.” It is Title VII of Public Law 111-22, which is called the “Helping Families Save Their Home Act.” The law will be in effect until December 31, 2012.

The new law provides that existing leases will continue until their term is complete, unless the new owner wants to move into the dwelling unit as his or her primary residence. Existing Connecticut law says that foreclosure cuts off tenant leases as soon as the foreclosure action is finished.

The new law also requires that the new owner take over any Section 8 leases in the building until those leases expire. This protects Section 8 tenants from a foreclosing lender who in the past would not take Section 8 payments. A foreclosing lender who refuses to accept Section 8 payments from the housing authority would be engaging in source-of-income discrimination, which violates the state Fair Housing Act.

The federal law preempts any part of Connecticut law that provides less

protection to tenants, but it leaves in place any part of Connecticut law that provides more protection. For example, under Connecticut law, tenants who are elderly or disabled and live in a building with five or more units cannot be evicted after foreclosure except for good cause. A desire to empty the building after foreclosure is not good cause. Those tenants continue to be protected by Connecticut law. Similarly, the Connecticut Fair Housing Act continues to protect Section 8 tenants against source-of-income discrimination, in addition to the protection in the new federal law.

Other important Connecticut protections also continue to apply post-foreclosure. Thus, during the time that tenants are in occupancy after the foreclosure is complete, the bank must continue to maintain the building and comply with all state building laws and local housing codes. It also must comply with state eviction and ejection procedures.

In contrast, the federal 90-day protection will take precedence over the existing Connecticut statute, which guarantees only 60 days to move for most tenants with written leases and only 30 days to move for all other tenants. Whichever law gives more protection will apply.

| Who should you call if you are a tenant with a foreclosure-related problem? | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| If your issue is... | call | tel. |
| ...foreclosure-related | Statewide Legal Services | 860.344.0380 or 1.800.453.3320 |
| ...cash for keys | Attorney General | 860.808.5318 |
| ...security deposit | Banking Department | 860.240.8154 or 1.800.831.7225 x8154 |
| ...lack of maintenance | Local code enforcement agency | blue pages of phone book |

CT Family Economic Security Conference

Prospering Communities, Thriving Families: "Building Foundations for a New Prosperity"

Monday, October 19, 2009

Hartford Marriott Downtown

Organizing Sponsors: CAFCA, CAHS, CWEALF/CWCT, CT Council for Family Service Agencies, CT Voices for Children, End Hunger CT!, LARCC/CABHN, and PCSW.

Visit www.cafca.org for conference details which will be updated regularly!

New SNAP Rules

continued from page 2

eligible for SNAP.

Beginning July 1, 2009, DSS is creating a new program called, "Help for People in Need". The new program is funded by TANF and consists of an informational brochure that will refer clients to programs that will help them.

A person or household with income below 185% of the federal poverty level will be eligible for the program "Help for People in Need", and are "categorically eligible" for SNAP upon receiving the brochure. Anyone who is eligible for "Help for People in Need" is categorically eligible for SNAP and gets at least the minimum benefit.

Elderly/disabled households whose income exceeds 185% of FPL are not eligible for "Help for People in Need" (although DSS will be mailing them a brochure) and are therefore not categorically eligible for SNAP.

DSS will do the mass mailing of the brochure to all active SNAP households early in July.

Alert your clients, friends and family that they may be eligible for SNAP if they were over the income limit or asset limit in the past. Please call EHC's Toll Free SNAP line at 866-974-SNAP (7627) or check out eligibility at www.ctfoodstamps.org.

Upcoming CABHN/FESN Meeting

September 2009

9:30-11:30 A.M.

Location & Topics:

To Be
Announced

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.

Return Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG
U S POSTAGE
PAID
HARTFORD CT
PERMIT NO 3377

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

Important Changes In SNAP (formerly Food Stamp) Benefits

- ☞ ***Name Change.*** No longer "Food Stamps"
Now: SNAP program. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- ☞ ***Increase in SNAP benefits*** of 13.9%
Effective April 1, 2009 as follows:

| Number of people | Old maximum monthly amount | New maximum monthly amount |
|------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | \$176 | \$200 |
| 2 | \$323 | \$367 |
| 3 | \$463 | \$526 |
| 4 | \$588 | \$668 |

- ☞ ***Single people no longer have a work requirement.*** Old rules disqualified many single people unless they were working.

***Apply for SNAP benefits,
especially if you are single!***

SENIORS!
Are your food bills too high?

The Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program SNAP (formerly "Food Stamps") rules have changed. Many more people qualify. Low income people with savings or retirement accounts now qualify.

As of July 1, 2009:

- ☞ you can have monthly income up to \$1,671 per month for one person, \$2,158 for two people***

- ☞ there is no asset limit. This means it doesn't matter how much your property and bank accounts are worth.***

SNAP benefits can be up to \$200 monthly for one person, \$367 for two people. The amount depends on income and expenses.

SNAP benefits are paid on a card that you can use at the grocery store just like a credit or debit card.

You do not have to repay this benefit. No lien will be placed on your house.

***Apply at the Department of Social Services (DSS).
Call 1-800-842-1508 to find the office nearest you.***