



NATIONAL FOSTER YOUTH INSTITUTE

National Coronavirus Resources for Current/Former Foster Youth

This resource guide was put together by NFYI staff. It is updated as frequently as possible, but please click through the links for updates. If you have questions or if you'd like to submit an additional resource or update, please email info@nfyi.org.

Jump to info on:

[Food Assistance](#)

[Health Insurance](#)

[Housing, Eviction & Utilities](#)

[Education and At-Home Learning](#)

[Legal Help](#)

[Child Welfare & Benefits Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Employment, Unemployment Insurance, Small Business Loans & Taxes](#)

[Latest COVID-19 Updates from Local & State Agencies](#)

Food Assistance

- Find a nearby food bank through auntbertha.com.
- [Feeding America](#) also has a nationwide food bank map, including locations for families who are eligible for the School Pantry Program.
- SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps) helps 1 in 7 Americans make ends meet. [Find out if you are eligible and how to apply.](#)

Health Care

- If you've lost access to your healthcare, please apply for coverage through your State Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Agencies.
- Medication: [CVS Pharmacy](#) will waive charges for home delivery of prescription medications. [Walmart](#) is waiving delivery fees for all eligible prescriptions during this

For access to additional resources for current/former foster youth, please visit www.nfyi.org, email info@nfyi.org, or connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#).



NATIONAL FOSTER YOUTH INSTITUTE

evolving situation and any purchase on Walgreens.com.

- Take extra steps to protect yourself and each other by taking precautions advised by the [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) and alert youth and other members of our community to [watch out for coronavirus treatment scams](#).

Mental Health

- [NAMI is maintaining a mental health helpline](#) to support those who are struggling with anxiety, depression, and stress due to the Coronavirus outbreak as well as sharing [useful tips](#) to cope during this time. Crisis Text Line is open 24/7; text NAMI to 741741.
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Disaster Hotline: 1-800-985-5990 or text TalkWithUs to 66746

Housing, Evictions and Utilities

- Unfortunately, at this time there is not a national moratorium on evictions for renters. Policies for stopping evictions vary by state, county and city. If you're unable to pay your rent because of coronavirus-related job loss, it's important that you research what's happening in your city so that you know your rights. You are also encouraged to let your landlord know what's going on and ask to negotiate a payment plan that works for you. And remember: even if your city has stopped evictions during the coronavirus crisis, that's only temporary. You will still be responsible for paying all rent that you owe. [Get more background and tips here](#).
- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) [has authorized an immediate moratorium](#) on foreclosures and evictions until mid-May for single-family homeowners who are unable to pay their FHA-backed mortgages amid the coronavirus

For access to additional resources for current/former foster youth, please visit www.nfyi.org, email info@nfyi.org, or connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#).



NATIONAL FOSTER YOUTH INSTITUTE

pandemic. Homeowners with loans backed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac will also be granted foreclosure relief.

Student Housing

- Some foster youth who are in college and live on campus may have no home to go to when their college campuses close. If you are or know of a foster youth that is staying at a college dorm room that is going to be closed, please contact [Together We Rise \(info@togetherwerise.org\)](mailto:info@togetherwerise.org) and they will provide help finding housing.
- U-Haul is offering [30 days of free self-storage](#) to help college students who are currently housing insecure.
- If you are a student affected by COVID-19 and in need of emergency relief, contact the [Student Relief Fund](#).

Education & Learning At Home

Technology & Internet Access

- A number of internet providers are offering free or reduced-price internet or data plans. Check in with the provider that services your area for details.
 - Charter is offering [free Spectrum broadband and Wi-Fi access](#) for 60 days to households with K-12 and/or college students who do not already have a Spectrum broadband subscription. To enroll: 1-844-488-8395.
 - [Comcast](#) also announced it would offer two months of free internet services to low-income households in its service areas.
 - AT&T is waiving internet data overage fees for customers who have capped data plans.

For access to additional resources for current/former foster youth, please visit www.nfyi.org, email info@nfyi.org, or connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#).



NATIONAL FOSTER YOUTH INSTITUTE

- Verizon is waiving any late fees and not terminating any service for the next 60 days.
- [T-mobile](#) announced current customers will have unlimited smartphone data, an additional 20GB of mobile hotspot / tethering service, and extra free data up to 5GB of data per month for the next 60 days.
- If you are, or were previously, in foster care and need a laptop for remote learning, email [One Simple Wish](#) at info@onesimplewish.org.

Learning at Home Resources

- [MIND Research Institute](#) is offering no cost access to a free math instructional program for students in grades K-8.
- [Scholastic](#) is offering free, online learning experiences for kids of all ages.
- [Amazing Educational Resources](#) has compiled a comprehensive list of education companies offering free subscriptions due to school closings.

Legal Help

- [Free Legal Answers is a virtual legal advice clinic.](#) Volunteer attorneys will not answer criminal law questions.
- [Family law resources](#) and how COVID-19 is affecting family law.

Child Welfare & Benefits Resources

- [COVID-19 Online Training](#) for Foster Parents & Caregivers from Foster Club
- [COVID-19 Fact Sheet for Grandfamilies and Multigenerational Families](#)
- Despite the current public health situation, you still are entitled to your rights as a foster youth including access to medical care; right to contact family members, your county

For access to additional resources for current/former foster youth, please visit www.nfyi.org, email info@nfyi.org, or connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#).



NATIONAL FOSTER YOUTH INSTITUTE

social worker, attorney, CASA or other advocate; and a right to education and social contacts. [Read more about Foster Youth Rights.](#)

- Section 422(b)(17) of the Social Security Act requires caseworkers to visit children in foster care on a monthly basis and, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, these visits were required to be held face-to-face. In response to the pandemic, the Administration of Children and Families has revised the policy on face-to-face visits to allow for video conferencing. While it is imperative that caseworkers continue to ensure the well-being of children in care, ACF clarified that the imperative must be balanced against the health of caseworkers, children in care, and all of the people with whom they come into contact. Thus, while there has been no change in the policy that every child must receive a monthly visit, those visits can now occur through online conference platforms like Skype, FaceTime or Zoom. [Source: [Child Welfare Policy Manual \(CWPM\), §7.3, question #8](#)]

Employment, Unemployment Insurance, Small Business Loans & Taxes

- Unemployment Insurance eligibility and programs vary by state. Please be proactive and persistent about contact your state's unemployment bureau to find out what you qualify for.
- Work study students who have lost their hours and funding due to campus closures may be eligible for relief. [Learn more here.](#)
- Legal Aid at Work provides clarity about [Undocumented Workers' Employment Rights](#), as well as a [Coronavirus FAQs](#) in English, Spanish, Vietnamese and Chinese.
- The [Jewish Free Loan Association](#) is offering interest-free and fee-free loans to those impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, for anything from everyday expenses to childcare to

For access to additional resources for current/former foster youth, please visit www.nfyi.org, email info@nfyi.org, or connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#).