Michigan Help Programs: Community Handout

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Start here: If you only remember one thing, call or text 2-1-1. It connects people to local help for food, housing, utilities and more.

Start here: three ways to get help

1. Call 2-1-1 — Call 2-1-1 (or visit mi211.org). Ask for help with the need you have. They can also connect you to energy help through the Michigan Energy Assistance Program.

2. Apply online — Apply online at MI Bridges (michigan.gov/mibridges) for state help such as food and emergency energy relief. Community partners can help you apply: newmibridges.michigan.gov.

3. Rent or housing trouble? Call your county's housing agency (called a HARA). Find yours on the MSHDA HARA contact list (updated by the state June 22, 2026).

All of these are free. Nobody official will ask you to pay to apply.

Food help



Apply for food assistance (SNAP): Start at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Food Assistance page. Applications are made through MI Bridges, or at your county MDHHS office.

Need food this week? Call 2-1-1 and ask for the closest food pantry or meal site. Hours change often, so ask them to confirm.

Rules change. Eligibility and work rules for food assistance can change, so check the MDHHS page or ask a caseworker before telling someone they do or don't qualify.

Heat and power this winter



Shutoff protection runs November 1 to March 31, but you must contact your utility to get it.

Utility numbers: DTE Energy 800-477-4747. Consumers Energy 800-477-5050.

Free tax help for next year's credit: Call 2-1-1, text 898211, or visit MichiganFreeTaxHelp.org.

Program	Who it helps	What to do
Senior shutoff protection	Customers 65 and older	Contact your utility to confirm eligibility
Low-income winter protection	Income at or below 150% of the federal poverty level, or getting MDHHS cash help, SSI, SNAP or Medicaid	Contact your utility; bring proof of income and show you applied for heating help
State Emergency Relief	Households in an energy emergency	Apply at michigan.gov/mibridges
Michigan Energy Assistance Program	Customers of participating electric utilities	Call 2-1-1 to be connected to a provider
Home Heating Credit	Michigan homeowners/renters with income within Treasury limits	The 2026 deadline passed on September 30. The credit reopens in the 2027 filing season — get free tax help to check if you qualify then.

Rent and housing

Every Michigan county has a Housing Assessment and Resource Agency (HARA) for people who need housing help or are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Open the MSHDA HARA contact list (updated by the state June 22, 2026). Find your county and note the agency, phone number and intake hours.

Call or email during intake hours. Ask what help is open right now and what papers to bring.

Wayne County — use the right office: Detroit / Highland Park / Hamtramck: Homeless Action Network of Detroit (HAND), (313) 305-0311, Mon–Fri 8am–6pm. Out-Wayne: Wayne Metropolitan CAA, (734) 284-6999.

Can't get through? Call 2-1-1 and ask for housing help in your county.

Watch out for scams



Getting a call, text or email about a "government grant"? The Michigan Attorney General says government agencies do not offer grants or money this way. Stop if any of these is true:

- They contacted you first about free grant money.
- They want payment by gift card, wire transfer, crypto or a pay app.
- They ask for your Social Security number or bank details.
- They rush you or tell you to keep it secret.

Report it: Michigan Attorney General Consumer Protection, 877-765-8388. Full checklist: michiganmoneymoves.com/avoid-scams.

Notes for your group

Information checked November 17, 2026. Programs, dates and phone numbers change. Please confirm with the agency before you tell someone they qualify.

Free to share and print. Michigan Money Moves is an independent website. We are not a government agency and do not take applications.

More help by county: michiganmoneymoves.com

Sources (pages opened): Michigan Public Service Commission: utility customer help, Michigan Treasury: Home Heating Credit, MSHDA HARA contact list, Michigan 2-1-1 Organization Portal, MDHHS Food Assistance.

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