

May 2021

Dream Big!

A Publication of Oshkosh/
Winnebago County
Housing Authority's
Family Self Sufficiency Program



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FSS Program Coordinator
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What's Inside:

- May Letter
- Mobile Food Pantry
- Internet Discount
- Moratorium Ends
- Goodwill Jobs
 - Parent Cafe
 - Rent Smart
- Rise Above & Beyond
 - WeCope
 - Cool Stuff!
- FSS Open Enrollment
 - Oshkosh Habitat
- WERA Rental Assistance
- FREE Financial Workshops
 - Connecting Veterans

Dear FSS participants and Community Members,

Goodbye Note from Su van Houwelingen –

Executive Director of the Oshkosh/Winnebago County Housing Authority
It is with great excitement and a little sadness that I am writing this note to all of our wonderful tenants letting you know that my last day will be June 1, 2021 as I move on to retirement, or as I like to call it repurposing myself.”

For over 20 years, I have enjoyed coming to work every day knowing the mission of this agency is providing homes for all of you. I wish I could say goodbye in person, but unfortunately due this crazy pandemic we are in, it is just not possible. What am I going to do with my time, you ask. Well for starters, I am going to spend a lot more time with my family, mostly the grandchildren. Peter and I have children and grandchildren on the east coast, west coast, lower Michigan and in Neenah/Menasha. I'll be spending more time in Door County at our trailer. I plan to also transition into some other meaningful role, whether volunteer or paid. I just can't sit around, it is not in my nature. I will miss all you and my work family staff at the Housing Authority. I ask that you keep me in your thoughts and/or prayers as I transition into the next chapter of my life.

Sincerely, Su van Houwelingen.

** Please join me in wishing Su a happy retirement. We will miss her! **



While you are waiting for warmer weather, check out these cool events in the area:

Oshkosh Habitat for Humanity will be looking to approve families for a Habitat build. A Habitat pre-application will be available on their website starting April 15, 2021 to June 15, 2021. See page 13 for more information.

Mark your calendars: **FSS Connection Group Meeting on June 14, 2021 at 9 am.** Oshkosh Kids Foundation will be talking about their organization and what they have planned for the near future. The zoom link will be sent closer to the meeting date. All are welcome!

Please read the rest of this newsletter with educational, employment and community opportunities. I wish you and your family a very Happy and Healthy June! Let's continue to strive to meet your goals and strengthen your self sufficiency. And as always, please let me know how I can help you by calling me at 920-424-1470 ext. 133 or emailing me at kayh@ohawcha.org.

Your success is my success.

Warm Regards,

Kay Hinton

FSS Coordinator



FREE FOOD OPTIONS FOR THE OSHKOSH COMMUNITY

FARMERS TO FAMILIES FOOD BOX

Wednesdays,
May, 5, 12, 19, 26
5:00 - 7:00 pm (do not arrive
before 4:30 pm)

Where: Oshkosh West High School
375 N Eagle Street, Oshkosh

The USDA is partnering with farmers, distributors and nonprofits to ensure that **everyone** has access to the fresh produce, meat and dairy they need during the COVID-19 crisis. Receive your food box at the Oshkosh drive-thru distribution. First come, first served basis.

Each party accepting a box is certifying that they are food insecure, lack money or other resources, and are in need of the Farmers to Families Food Boxes for their household use.



Oshkosh logistics partners: Oshkosh Area Community Foundation, Oshkosh Area United Way, Father Carr's Place 2B, Oshkosh Corporation, Amcor, UW Oshkosh, J.J. Keller Foundation, Oshkosh Area School District

OSHKOSH AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Wednesdays,
May 5, 12, 19, 26
5:00 - 7:00 pm (do not arrive
before 4:30 pm)

Where: Oshkosh West High School
375 N Eagle Street, Oshkosh

Meals are free to any child age 18 and under. Children do not need to be Oshkosh Area School District students or enrolled in school to receive meals.

Each child will receive 5 days worth of meals along with milk. Children do not need to be present to receive meals - a parent/guardian or sibling may pick up meals for the child.



Discounted internet access for qualifying households

\$50 off per month or \$75/month on Tribal Land

Under the [Emergency Broadband Benefit](#) program

What it is:

- Temporary home internet discount program for eligible residences
- \$50/month off for internet access; \$75/month on Tribal Land
- Discounts on laptops, desktops, and tablets are also available

Who qualifies:

At least one of the following must be true of one member of the household

- Eligible for Lifeline program
- Participated in the Free/Reduced lunch program between 2019 and now
- Received a Pell grant this year
- Suffered substantial income loss after February 29, 2020
- Qualifies for an internet provider's low-income or COVID-19 program
- Participates in Tribal-specific federal assistance programs

How to sign up:

- Details are coming soon

When can I sign up?:

- Enrollment will begin in late April
- Program will continue until six months after the public health emergency – or until funds run out

More information:

- [PowerPoint by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission](#)
 - bit.ly/PSC-Slides
- [Recorded presentation by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission](#) (Free registration)
 - bit.ly/EBB-Webinar

BE IN THE KNOW



CONNECTING WISCONSIN

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is exploring options to improve 23-miles of I-41 between WIS 96 (Wisconsin Avenue) and County F (Scheuring Road) in Outagamie and Brown counties. The capacity, conditions, and traffic operations are also being studied at nine existing interchanges and one new Brown County interchange within the corridor.

STAY CONNECTED:
wisconsindot.gov/i41project

RECORDED PRESENTATIONS

UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS

COMMENT FORMS

MEETING DISPLAYS

NEWSLETTER SIGN UP

EMAIL PROJECT STAFF

WE STILL NEED YOUR INPUT

SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS
 Comments can be submitted via email to DOTDOTSDNERI41@dot.wi.gov or by contacting either of the team members listed below.

Scott Ebel, P.E.
 I-41 Project Manager
 (920) 360-2225
Scott.Ebel@dot.wi.gov

Melissa (Missy) Kok
 I-41 Communications Manager
 (920) 492-5743
Melissa2.Kok@dot.wi.gov

VISIT US AT:

[WIS441I41News](#)
[@WIS441I41News](#)



State Moratorium on Utility Disconnections to End April 15, 2021

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) voted unanimously to allow utilities to move forward with disconnection of service for nonpayment at the end of the annual winter moratorium after April 15, 2021. The action comes following a moratorium preventing utilities from disconnecting service for nonpayment during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

To avoid disconnection, customers who have fallen behind on payments are **encouraged first to contact their utility to set up a payment plan**. If customers are having difficulty paying their energy bills, they may be eligible for assistance from the WHEAP/WERA. To apply online go to energybenefit.wi.gov or to apply by phone call 1-800-506-5596, or go to <http://homeenergyplus.wi.gov> to find out where to apply in person or call 1-866-HEATWIS. Utilities are required to offer a Deferred Payment Agreement (DPA) to residential customers who cannot pay an outstanding bill in full. If customers cannot reach a payment agreement with their utility, they may contact the PSC by calling 1-800-225-7729, or by filing a complaint on the PSC website.

Eviction Protection Declaration

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued an order that may protect you from being evicted or removed from where you are living. **This means that you may be able to stay at the place where you live through JUNE 30, 2021, if you qualify.**

1. See if you qualify for eviction protection under the CDC order. If you'd like help from an expert, contact (800) 569-4287 or go to <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/housing-counseling/rental-eviction/> to get contact information for a local HUD-approved housing counselor.
2. Sign the declaration that you qualify and give the signed declaration page to your landlord. Keep a copy for your records.

We're HIRING



If you like...

- Helping **people** in your community find **meaningful** jobs.
- Working with people who you consider **family**.
- Having a **flexible** schedule.
- Thrifting with a **team member discount**.
- Finding donated **treasures**.
- Being paid a **competitive wage**.

Then you're our kind of people!

Contact our HR recruiter to apply.

Lisa Nitzke
Talent Acquisition Specialist

Office: 920-968-6982

Lnitzke@goodwillncw.org

Parent Café



Parent Connection | Family Wellness Program

The last Saturday of every month | Cost: Free

Join us for a conversation led by professionals from our communities! We will ask topic questions you can discuss in smaller groups, receive guidance & resources from our guest professionals, and connect with other parents from the community!

Topics will be shared on the Family Services website & Parent Connection Facebook page.



Parent Cafes are offered on-line until it is safe to gather.

Thank you for understanding!

Dates: The last Saturday of every month

Time: 1:00 pm (plan up to 60 minutes)

Cost: FREE

Registration is Required

Register On-line:

Website: www.familyservicesnew.org/parenting-classes

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ParentConnectionWI>, see our Events Page!

Or contact Jen DiMatteo | jdimatteo@familyservicesnew.org | (920) 739-4226 ext. 109



Parent Connection is a program of Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin, Inc.

Fox Cities: 1810 Appleton Road, Menasha WI 54952 | (920) 739-4226

Oshkosh: 36 Broad Street, Suite 150, Oshkosh 54901 | (920) 233-6630

Shawano: 100 County Road B, Shawano, WI 54166 | (715) 853-0923

www.familyservicesnew.org/parent-connection





Rent Smart

Taught by Extension Educators

Helping to make renting a great experience for you!

Upcoming Class Dates & Times:

February: 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18; 7-8 PM

March: 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26; 9-10 AM

April: 5, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26, 29; 1-2 PM

May: 4, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27; 7-8 PM

Location: Live, online instruction via Zoom; Zoom links sent after completing registration.

Online registration form: <https://go.wisc.edu/Rentsmartregister>

Cost: FREE!

What you will learn:

- Planning for and meeting monthly expenses
- Tips for finding and maintaining affordable housing
- How to complete an application and why landlords screen applicants
- Strategies for building positive relationships with landlords and neighbors
- Responsibilities and rights of landlords and tenants
- **Participants must complete all 6 modules to earn the Rent Smart certificate**
- **For more information, please contact rentsmartwi@office365.wisc.edu or call 262-741-4951**

An EEO-Affirmative Action Employer, UW-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, and ADA requirements.



32nd Annual Young Parent Conference

RISE ABOVE & BEYOND

Friday, May 7, 2021

8:45 am - 1:45 pm

Virtual Event Via Zoom

Register to spend a day focused on yourself and your growth. Gain valuable information about parenting and more!
Conference open to any parent age 24 and under.



FREE

Virtual Conference
Just for You!

Free legal advice
on paternity,
child support and
placement.

Get to know your
resources.

Learn about
car seat safety,
breastfeeding, the
importance of fathers
and much more!

Win Big Prizes!

Prizes will be delivered
to the address provided
during registration
(porch drop-off).



RSVP online by May 6th at 4:00 pm

www.surveymonkey.com/r/YPC2021



Jen DiMatteo

Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin | Parent Connection

jdmatteo@FamilyServicesNEW.org

(920) 739-4226 ext. 109 | www.familyservicesnew.org

Thank You to our Sponsors!





Connecting with our Positive Emotions

WeCOPE is an interactive program that helps adults cope with life stress. WeCOPE has been shown to reduce stress and depression, increase positive affect, and improve health behaviors.

Managing life's challenges in healthy ways allows participants to take better care of themselves and others.

This 7-week program meets via Zoom once a week for 45 minutes.

Tuesdays, April 13th - May 25th
7:30 am - 8:15 am

Register at:

<https://forms.gle/V2NxqL7rue11MkQu8>

County Educator Contacts:

Washington County, carol.bralich@wisc.edu

Dodge County, patricia.carroll@wisc.edu

Winnebago County, amanda.dornfeld@wis.edu



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

OSHKOSH ZOO OPENING SOON: It has been a very long winter and we are excited to announce the opening of the Menominee Park Zoo! Opening day for Menominee Park Zoo is **May 1, 2021** and we hope you include visiting the new eagle exhibit on your list of places to see this summer. The zoo will be open daily from 9am-7pm. When you visit the zoo you will also be able to see our new pack of wolf pups that aren't even a year old yet. It is sure to be a very exciting year at the Menominee Park Zoo.

Good news for parents: Millions of American families with children will start receiving monthly payments from the [enhanced child tax credit in July](#). Under the law, families will receive a \$3,000 annual benefit per child ages 6 to 17 and \$3,600 per child under the age of 6 for the 2021 tax year. The expanded credit is scheduled to be disbursed to families on a monthly basis beginning in July and will continue through December 2021. The monthly amounts generally will be \$250 for older children 6-17 years old and \$300 for children under the age of six. Families will claim the remaining half of the credit when they file their 2021 income tax return in 2022. [The full credit is available](#) to individuals who have children and adjusted gross income of less than \$75,000, or \$150,000 for a married couple filing jointly. The extra benefit will phase out for taxpayers who make more money, and cease for individuals earning \$95,000 and married couples earning \$170,000 filing jointly.



Pool Season Pass Scholarship Program is offering a scholarship program for low income individuals and families to be able to apply for and receive a free season pass to Pollock Community Water Park. Financial assistance applications may be picked up at the Parks Administrative offices or found on our website. Funding is limited. Applications are due back to the Parks Administrative offices by May 7, 2021 and successful recipients will be notified if their application was accepted. If you have any questions regarding the application process or whether or not you qualify please contact Stacy James, Administrative Assistant, at (920) 236-5080.

FSS Open Enrollment

ATTENTION:

LOOKING TO SAVE THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS?



ENROLLMENT IS OPEN FOR THE FAMILY SELF SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM. THE FSS PROGRAM CAN NOW SERVE HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER (SECTION 8) AND PUBLIC HOUSING SCATTERED SITES IN ALL OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY

How Does the FSS program work?

Participant Enrolls and sets personal goals



Participant Meets Goals



Increases Income and Saves in the Escrow Account



Graduates and Celebrates!



Services Available:

- ♦ Employment Search
- ♦ Education
- ♦ Credit Counseling
- ♦ Money Management
- ♦ Homeownership
- ♦ Health Care
- ♦ Child Care

Please contact Kay Hinton at
(920) 424-1450, ext. 133 or
kayh@ohawcha.org.

**\$25 Kwik trip gas cards are available
for those that enroll by June 1, 2021.**



Habitat for Humanity[®] of Oshkosh, Inc.

Are you interested in becoming a Habitat Home Buyer?

Habitat for Humanity Oshkosh builds new construction homes within the city of Oshkosh and sells them to qualified families at no profit.

Families help build their home and make monthly mortgage payments. Homes are made affordable through volunteer labor; down payment assistance programs and 0% interest mortgages provided by Habitat.

Visit us at the Oshkosh ReStore
(1640 S Koeller St.) or online:



HABITATOSHKOSH.ORG/HOME-BUYER-PROGRAM/

Pre-Applications available April 15th - June 15th

Interested applicants must meet the below qualifications:

Need for Adequate Housing

Based on current housing conditions, there must be a demonstrated need in order to qualify for a Habitat home. Some examples of need include overcrowding, structural/mechanical problems, mold, insects, etc.

Ability to Pay

Ability to pay is determined through the information provided on the application, pay stubs, benefit statements, previously filed federal tax returns, and credit reports. Gross income must fall within 30-60% of the median income. Applicants must have a steady, reliable source of income and demonstrate financial responsibility.

Willingness to Partner

Habitat Home Buyers must be willing to complete "Sweat Equity" hours. Sweat Equity is when a family takes part in building their home, working at our ReStore, or other Habitat activities.

Residency

Qualified candidates will have lived in or worked in the City of Oshkosh for at least six months prior to submitting an application.

Contact Elizabeth Last for more information 920-235-3535 or elast@habitatoshkosh.org.

We are pledged to the letter and spirit of U.S. policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity throughout the nation. We encourage and support affirmative advertising and marketing in which there are no barriers to obtaining housing because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin.





Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance Program

What Kind of Help is Available?



Utility and Home Energy Payments



Rent Payments



Services to help you stay in your home

Eligible households may receive up to 12 months of assistance to help with current and/or overdue bills.

Does My Household Qualify?

Your household may qualify if at least one or more individuals in your home meet the following :

1) Qualifies for unemployment or has experienced a reduction in household income, experienced major costs, or experienced financial struggles due to COVID-19;

2) Demonstrates a risk of being evicted or losing your home; and,

3) Has a household income at or below 80 percent of the county median. You may received assistance even if

you receive housing subsidy.



Want to Apply?

Information about the Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance Program, including how to apply for assistance, is available in two convenient ways:

Your Local Community Action Agency

Visit: wiscap.org/wera

Energy Services, Inc.

Call: 1-833-900-9372 or

Email: support@wera.help

Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance Program is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Administration

FREE Financial Workshops Family Self Sufficiency

Goodwill NCW offering Financial and Debt Solutions Services 2021 Workshop Schedule.

Open to the public, registration required. All virtual; may change later in the year to in-person.

Lunch n Learn – Who We Are and What We Do: 12-12:30pm. No charge.

To Register: Send an e-mail with your contact information to: financialsolutions@goodwillncw.org

Join us to learn some of the common financial challenges people face and how we provide personalized counseling and coaching to assist in gaining control over money to support your journey to financial stability.

- Wednesday, January 20th
- Wednesday, February 17th
- Wednesday, March 17th
- Wednesday, April 21st
- Wednesday, May 19th
- Wednesday, June 16th
- Wednesday, September 15th
- Wednesday, October 20th
- Wednesday, November 17th

Workshops 6-7 pm. \$10 per person/couple.

To Register: Send an e-mail with contact information to: financialsolutions@goodwillncw.org

1	January	1/19/2021	What to do with your Tax Refund
2	February	2/16/2021	What Budget is Right for You?
3	March	3/16/2021	Scams, Traps & Avoiding Identity Theft
4	April	4/27/2021	Managing and Coping with Debt
5	May	5/18/2021	Understanding and Improving Your Credit Score
6	June	6/15/2021	Dealing with Student Loan Debt
7	September	9/21/2021	For Richer or Poorer – Couples & Finances
8	October	10/19/2021	Holiday Spending – Are You Ready
9	November	11/16/2021	Saving and Paying for College – Know the Facts

The Power of Money. \$15 per person/couple

To Register: Send an e-mail with contact information to: financialsolutions@goodwillncw.org

This three-part series helps attendees learn to spend less, save more and build a budget that works. Each class builds on the previous one and shows how to reduce the stress of unexpected expenses. You will learn where your money is going now, identify top financial needs, prioritize spending and have money for future dreams and goals. With practical tips, worksheets and real-life examples, this workshop has helped numerous people reduce debt, decrease stress, talk about money more easily and enjoy life to the fullest.

- Thursday, January 14th, 21st, 28th. 6-7:30pm
- Tuesday, March 9th, 16th, 23rd. 12:00 pm – 1:30pm
- Thursday, May 6th, 13th, 20th. 6-7:30pm
- Tuesday, June 15th, 22nd, 29th 12:00pm – 1:30pm

Goodwill has decided to change from charging a fee to having ALL workshops be free of charge.

Connection Veterans

Connecting Veterans Across Wisconsin to Services

A Safety Net Mobile App & Website for Anyone in Need



POWERED by the VFW of WI **VFW**

Web App www.cvihelp.com

Available for FREE on the
Apple and Google App Stores

For more information please visit www.cvivet.org



Available on the iPhone
App Store

ANDROID APP ON
Google play