CONGRESSMAN JOE COURTNEY

SERVING CONNECTICUT'S SECOND DISTRICT

COVID-19 Resource Guide

for Families, Workers, and More

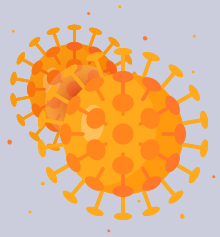
From the Office of

Congressman Joe Courtney

Open for More Information on Direct Payments, Unemployment Insurance, Help for Renters, Small Business Loans, Paid Leave, and Much More

FOR MORE INFORMATION on the new resources available to families, small businesses, workers, seniors, and more, visit **courtney.house.gov.**

For more information on all of these resources and much more, visit my COVID-19 Resource Page online.



HELP YOU CAN ACCESS NOW

Congress has passed **3 bipartisan bills** aimed at streamlining resources to families, workers, health care professionals, small businesses, and others throughout eastern Connecticut.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Rep. Courtney voted for bipartisan legislation to improve and expand unemployment benefits, including an additional $600 per week for 4 months. Apply for those benefits now at **CTDOL.state.ct.us**.

Congressional action has greatly expanded access to Unemployment Insurance, including to people who are self-employed, gig workers, independent contractors, and others not traditionally eligible.

PAID LEAVE

The bipartisan Coronavirus emergency relief package signed into law on March 14 gives most American workers at small and medium-sized companies from 2 to 12 weeks of paid leave if they need to take time off because of the outbreak – whether it's for themselves or for their children.

For more information, visit **courtney.house.gov/COVID19**.

DIRECT PAYMENTS

- Individuals making $75,000 or less ($150,000 for joint filers) will receive federal rebates of $1,200 – the rebate will be gradually reduced for those who make more, up to $99,000 ($198,000 for joint filers).
- Everyone is eligible for rebate payments as long as they have a Social Security Number.
- That includes **Social Security beneficiaries, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients,** and **veterans**.
- These payments are federal rebates, and **are not taxable income**.
- Many people who don't typically file, or who haven't filed in several years, are also eligible. Please visit **IRS.gov** in order to submit your information to the IRS so that you receive your economic impact payment quickly.
- Rebates will be delivered by the IRS – when available, electronic deposit will be used in place of mailing a physical check.

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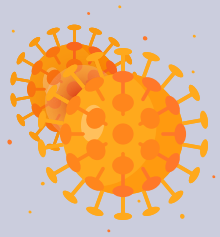

Food and Meals

The bipartisan Families First Coronavirus Response Act authorized increased funding for federal school meal and nutrition programs so that no one in eastern Connecticut who relies on these programs for food goes hungry. Here are some of the resources available federally and locally to help folks in our community through this rough patch:

School Lunch Distribution

The USDA and the CT Department of Education approved two COVID-19 Emergency Meal Programs. For more information about these programs, and to view the lists, visit **courtney.house.gov**.

Food Assistance and Food Banks

Congress voted to reinvest in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and has secured $850 million in supplemental funding for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) to help food banks facing increased demand.

New Tax Deadline

The federal government has moved the tax filing deadline to July 15. You don't have to file your return or make payments until then.

Small Business Loans

SBA's new **Economic Injury Disaster Loans** offer up to $2 million in assistance per small business and can provide vital economic support to help overcome temporary loss of revenue.

The new Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) was created to provide cash-flow assistance to employers that maintain payroll obligations through this emergency, **including veteran-owned businesses.**

For more information, visit **sba.gov** or call 1-800-659-2955. You can also visit my website for more information at **courtney.house.gov**, or call my office at 860-886-0139.

Help for Homeowners and Renters

Under the CARES Act, federally backed mortgages, **including those guaranteed or insured by the VA,** are protected from foreclosure for 60 days beginning on March 18. If borrowers are facing financial hardship, they can request a forbearance for up to 6 months, with a possible extension for another 6 months, through their mortgage holder.

On April 10, Governor Ned Lamont signed an executive order to enact a series of protections for residential renters struggling to pay housing costs during the COVID-19 emergency, including a 60-day grace period for payment of rent and protection from eviction for those impacted by the pandemic, starting on April 20. For more, visit **CT.gov**.

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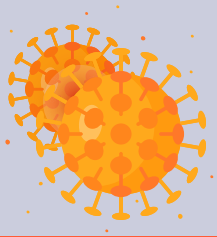

HELP WITH BILLS, KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON, AND STAYING CONNECTED

Eversource Energy

Eversource has announced that during the COVID-19 emergency it is suspending disconnection of service for nonpayment, eliminating late-payment charges, and offering flexible payment plans.
For more information, visit **eversource.com/content/ct-c**.

Connecticut Water

Connecticut Water is working with any customers facing financial hardship due to COVID-19, including setting up deferred payment arrangements or other assistance.
For more, visit **ctwater.com** or call **1-800-286-5700**.

AT&T

AT&T will not terminate service of any wireless, home phone, or broadband residential or small business customer because of inability to pay due to disruptions caused by COVID-19.
For more info, go to **att.com** or call **1-800-288-2020**.

Comcast Xfinity

Comcast will not disconnect customers' Xfinity internet or mobile services for those unable to pay their bills due to COVID-19. Visit **xfinity.com/prepare** to learn more.

Cox Communications

Cox will not terminate service to any residential or small business customer because of an inability to pay bills due to COVID-19. It will also waive late fees, and will keep hotspots open to help keep the public connected.
For more info, visit **cox.com/residential/home.html** or call **1-844-221-3930**.

NEW SUPPORT FOR EASTERN CONNECTICUT

Support from the CDC

So far, Connecticut has received **$12.4 million** in emergency federal funding through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to support relief measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cash Flow for Small Businesses

To help small businesses weather this storm, **more than $2.9 billion in federal funds** have been provided by the federal Small Business Administration (SBA) so far to give employers in eastern Connecticut access to immediate cash flow with flexible uses.

More Than $1 Million from HUD

Eastern Connecticut has received **more than $1 million** in newly authorized federal grants from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which will help with everything from building new testing facilities, to acquiring critical supplies, and more.

Support for Our Health Care System

So far, our communities have received **more than $1.8 million** in federal grants from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to help our health care professionals get the supplies they need.

Education and Childcare Support

Following passage of the bipartisan CARES Act, Connecticut has received more than **$23.6 million** to support childcare and early child development; elementary, secondary, and higher education relief; and more.

United States Congressman

JOE COURTNEY

Serving Connecticut's Second District

FOLLOW CONGRESSMAN JOE COURTNEY ONLINE:

courtney.house.gov

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3 Major Bills to Provide Resources

Congress has passed 3 **bipartisan** bills to put more resources in the toolboxes of American families, workers, health care professionals, small businesses, and more.

The CARES Act

- Authorized federal rebates of $1,200 per adult, and $500 per child
- Expanded Unemployment Insurance to 13 weeks, plus an extra $600 per week
- Authorized $367 billion in forgivable loans for small businesses
- Authorized $130 billion more for hospitals to procure resources and training
- Provided $150 billion in state, local, and tribal stabilization funding

The Families First Act

- Provided up to 10 days of emergency paid sick leave for COVID-19-related reasons
- Enhanced and greatly expanded Unemployment Insurance
- Increased Medicaid funding
- Ensured FREE COVID-19 testing for all Americans
- Expanded food assistance programs for mothers, children, and seniors

The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act

- More than $3 billion for the research and development of vaccines, treatments, and diagnostics
- $2.2 billion in public health funding for prevention, preparedness, and response
- Nearly $1 billion to procure pharmaceuticals and medical supplies to support Community Health Centers, and to improve medical surge capacity

Contact My Office for Answers or Assistance

There are many new resources available for families, workers, small businesses, and others in eastern Connecticut following Congress' bipartisan authorization of **3 major economic stabilization bills to respond to COVID-19**. My office is here to be a resource for you and the people you care about.

Reach Congressman Courtney directly at any of the following district offices:

Norwich Office
55 Main Street, Suite 250
Norwich, CT
860-886-0139

Enfield Office
77 Hazard Avenue, Unit J
Enfield, CT
860-741-6011

Washington Office
2332 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC
202-225-2076

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