

HAPGC NEWSLETTER

ALL PARTICIPANTS

JUNE 2022 - ISSUE 4



SCHOOL IS OUT!

It's officially Summer time and school is coming to a close for the year. Those of you with school aged children may be wondering what you can do to keep them busy on vacation. We have a few ideas!

Summer Camp

The PG County Dept. of Parks & Recreation has Summer Day Camp and Virtual Clubhouse programs from June 27 – August 18. The Summer Day Camp is for ages 4-17. The Virtual Clubhouse is for ages 6-17. Fees vary by session. **Visit pgparks.com for more information.**

Summer Reading

Keep their minds sharp with summer reading lists! You can find reading lists for every age group on the Prince George's County Memorial Library (PGCMLS) website.

You can also encourage reading for everyone by enrolling in the Team that Reads Summer Reading Program via PGCMLS in partnership with the Washington Nationals Major League Baseball team. The program is running now through August 19.



Resource Bulletin

There are several resources available to you all via Prince George's County and other state programs. Should you or someone you know be in need of food or shelter assistance, please take advantage of some of the options below.

FOOD:

Dept. of Social Services Emergency Food Assistance Program

The Department of Social Services distributes donated food from over 30 local community pantries and shelters that participate in the program. Please call 301-909-6343 for more information and assistance within your area of the county.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Benefits

HOW TO APPLY

There are a few ways to file an application for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. You may download or complete an application online at <https://mymdthink.maryland.gov/home/#/>. You can also ask for an application in person, over the phone or by mail.

Additionally, you can contact the PG County Dept. of Social Services to give or mail you a SNAP application on the same day you ask for one.

Fill in your name, address, telephone number and as much other information as possible, and sign it. Give or send the completed form to the office as soon as possible. A case manager can help you fill out the rest of the form during your interview if necessary.

YOU MUST ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS COMPLETELY AND HONESTLY. IF YOU FAIL TO DO SO, YOU CAN BE REMOVED FROM THE PROGRAM, FINED, PUT IN PRISON, OR ALL THREE.

The office will accept a signed application form on the same day you turn it in even if they cannot interview you on that day.

NEXT STEPS

If you qualify for SNAP, you should be able to access your benefits no later than 30 days from the date the office got your application. SNAP benefits are issued electronically on a card like a bank ATM card.

Your application will be reviewed the same day to determine if you are eligible to receive SNAP within 7 days.

If you are not interviewed the day you turn in your application, the local department will contact you to set up an interview to go over your application.

A case manager will explain the program rules and help you complete any parts of the application that you have not filled out. The worker will also ask you for proof of certain information you have given. Ask the worker to explain anything you don't understand. It is important that you understand the rules.



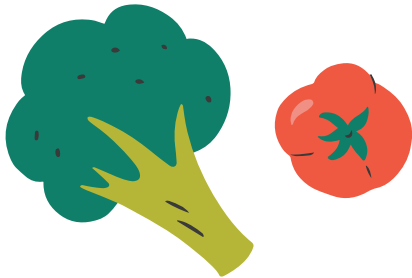
Prince George's County Farmers' Markets

Farmer's markets are a healthy and cost effective choice for purchasing produce and other fresh grocery items. Many markets also accept WIC and SNAP benefits as well. For an extensive list of farmers markets in Prince George's County, visit:

<http://www.farmsandmarkets.com/maryland/prince-georges-county/farmers-markets>

Hyattsville Farmers' Market

3505 Hamilton Street,
Hyattsville, MD 20782
June - October Tuesday 2:00
PM to 6:00 PM



Montpelier Farmers Market

1720 North Crain Highway,
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
June - August, Saturdays 9a -
1p (The Farmers Market is open
on the FIRST and THIRD
Saturdays of the month from
June - August. The Farmers
Market will operate EVERY
Saturday in September and
October from 9am-1p)

Laurel Farmers' Market

300 Main Street, Laurel, MD
20707
May - October



Housing

Department of Social Services Homelessness Prevention Program

If you are facing eviction or foreclosure, you can call the Department of Social Services Homelessness Prevention Program at **301-909-6362**.

This program provides:

- Screening of applicants to determine eligibility
- Interviewing and assessment
- Counseling, information and referral
- Landlord and tenant mediation
- Follow-up and linkages to other available resources
- On-going community outreach and training through the Community Outreach Program (COP)

Housing Assistance Organizations

You may be able to receive housing and/or eviction assistance by calling the organizations below:

Catholic Charities in Forestville - 301-568-9529
Community Ministries, Seat Pleasant - 301-499-2319
Laurel Advocacy and Referral in Laurel - 301-776-0442
United Communities Against Poverty (UCAP) in Capitol Heights at - 301-322-5700

State of Maryland Homeless Hotline

You can call the 24 hr Homeless Hotline toll free in the State of Maryland at 888-731-0999, or at 301-864-7095. The hotline provides emergency assistance and referral for those in need of immediate shelter. Individuals and families in need must call the Homeless Hotline directly.

NOTE: There is NO WAITING LIST. Referrals are made on a first come, first serve basis.

Eligibility:

You will be asked a few questions to determine your eligibility for shelter. They'll need the following information:

- Proof of residence; lease, utility bills
- A valid photo identification, voter registration or Military ID
- Be homeless or within 7 days of becoming homeless
- Have not been in a County shelter for the past 12 months
- Number, ages and gender of all people in your family.

The following documents may be required as well:

- Child support document
- Court papers
- Department of Social Services benefit document
- Eviction notice
- Hospital bill
- Jail ID or release paper
- Copy of paystub indicating Prince George's County address
- Current school papers
- Unemployment document or stub
- Prince George's County utility bill



Please note that many of the required documents can not be less than 30 days old and will need to have a Prince George's County address.

Workforce Help

Short on cash? Check out some of these programs available through Employ Prince George's. You can apply for the listed programs, and browse programs not listed here at: employpg.org.

Employ PG's COVID-19 Workforce Development Recovery Program

This program is available to those who have been laid off or suffered job loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic in order to help them find and/or qualify for new/additional employment.

Employ Prince George's Youth Career Connections Program

This program is available to youth ages 14-24. It is designed to assist young people in becoming skilled and competitive workers via Career Pathways service models. Employ Prince George's also offers other youth services supplemental to workforce development including:

- Supportive Services
- Work Experience
- Leadership and Soft Skill Training
- Job Readiness Training
- Internships
- Apprenticeships

If you are between the ages of 14 and 24 and are in need of career-related guidance, please consider these and other resources available through Employ PG Youth Services.



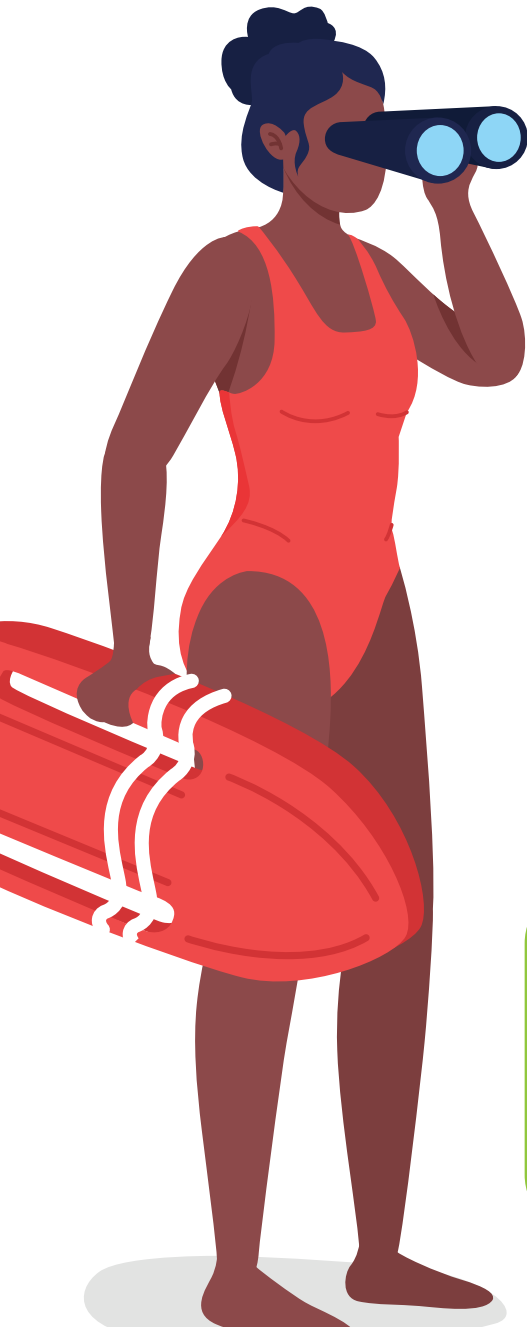
LIFEGUARDS NEEDED!

The Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission's Department of Parks & Recreation has immediate opening for Lifeguards at the following aquatic facilities:

Allentown Splash, Tennis & Fitness Park – Fort Washington
Ellen E. Linson Splash Park – College Park
Fairland Sports & Aquatics Complex – Laurel
Glenn Dale Splash Park – Glenn Dale
Hamilton Splash Park – Hyattsville
J. Franklyn Bourne – Capitol Heights
Lane Manor Splash Park – Adelphi
North Barnaby Splash Park – Oxon Hill
Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex – Landover
Rollingcrest Splash Pool – Hyattsville
Southern Area Aquatics & Recreation Complex – Brandywine
Southern Regional Aquatic Wellness Center – Fort Washington
Theresa Banks Memorial Aquatics Center – Glenarden

Lifeguards are paid **\$15.00/hr – \$17.36/hr** and FREE Lifeguard Training is available!

To receive the FREE Lifeguard Training incentive, candidates must commit to working for the Dept. of Parks & Rec at one of the listed hiring facilities through September 5, 2022.



MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Candidates must be at least 16 years old to work for the Department.

Candidates must complete an online application available at:

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/mncppc/jobs/3477750/lifeguards-summer-2022-seasonal?keywords=lifeguards&pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs>

Candidates **MUST** interview with a Facility Manager at one of the hiring facilities, which may be conducted in-person or virtually.

Candidates must complete the required American Red Cross Pre-course Skills Assessment which includes successfully demonstrating the following skills:

- Swim 300 yards continuously demonstrating breath control and rhythmic breathing
- Tread water for 2 min using only the legs (hands placed across chest under armpits)
- Complete a timed event within 1 min & 40 secs
- Starting in the water, swim 20 yards then surface dive, feet-first or head-first, to a depth of 7-10 ft to retrieve a 10 lb object
- Surface and swim 20 yards on back, with both hands holding the object
- Exit the water without using a ladder or steps

Once candidates complete/meet the pre-employment requirements, they will be assigned to an American Red Cross Lifeguarding course offered at one of our department aquatic facilities.

FREE Lifeguard Prep Swim Lessons are also available to assist interested candidates (ages 16 and older) with preparing for the Lifeguarding Course.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.pgparks.com/1067/Employment-Opportunities>

Join the Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS)

On April 1, 2022, the Housing Authority of Prince George's County (HAPGC) welcomed its first group of Public Housing residents to the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program. Woohoo! The participants currently reside at Kimberly Gardens, Marlborough Towne and Cottage City Towers.

How It Works

In the next five years, the eight current participants will strive to achieve goals such as obtaining suitable employment, homeownership, financial stability, higher education and entrepreneurship.

The goal of the program is to graduate 25 program participants over a five-year period. The program will benefit participants by allowing HAPGC to fund an escrow account utilizing the difference from participant's rent increases, while enrolled in the program.

The long-term goal is to refer program participants to the Housing Choice Voucher Homeownership Program.

V.A.S. Open House Events

The open house events are to assist clients in finding a place to call home, as they have the opportunity to view the property and ask any questions should they decide to fill out an application.

These open house events have been an amazing experience for the clients because of the welcoming atmosphere and sense of normalcy that allows them to be a part of the housing market; not feeling as if they are in a box because they are voucher holders.

We were able to work with some amazing realtors that opened up their properties and shared their time with us on a Saturday. Mrs. Tiana Johnson from Keller Williams, Ms. Tassia Brown from Pinnacle Property Group, Ms. Senora Grooms and Ms. Cher Sorzano all have been an extraordinary real-estate resource for our clients and agency. Mr. Keith also secured housing for our seniors and they are super excited to have a place to call home. The property name is The Lewis-Suitland Seniors 62+ Apartments with Ms. Kellina Briscoe.



Testimonial

"We have been living in a shelter for 1 year now. It has been a difficult time for us and finding a place to call home hasn't been easy. It wasn't until we attended a Meet & Lease and had the pleasure of meeting Ms. Staton, that things began to progress. She invited us to an open house a few weeks later and we loved it."

"The open house experience was a good one to say the least. We had the opportunity to not only tour the place we would possibly call home, but also we were able to ask whatever questions we had about the property and get familiar with people who could invite us to other open houses in the future."



Prince George's Healthcare Alliance:

Chat with Barbara Banks-Wiggins

Ms. Barbara Banks-Wiggins is the Executive Director of the Prince George's Healthcare Alliance. HAPGC partners with the Healthcare Alliance to give residents access to affordable healthcare, health services and health counseling when they need it. We sat down with Ms. Banks-Wiggins and asked her some important questions about the Healthcare Alliance that you may want to know.

Who does the Healthcare Alliance (HA) primarily serve?

The Healthcare Alliance provides care-coordination and community health worker services that help individuals address medical, behavioral and social determinants of health barriers impacting their life.

What is the Healthcare Alliance's mission?

The Prince George's Healthcare Alliance, Inc. is an award winning 501 (c)(3), non-profit organization whose mission is to decrease the overuse of health system resources and to maximize the quality-of-care for vulnerable and underserved populations.

The Healthcare Alliance trains and deploys Community Health Workers (CHWs) to deliver evidence-based interventions that help patients improve their health behaviors. We connect patients to Patient Centered Medical Homes (PCMHs), assist hospitals with care transitions, and conduct comprehensive care services that address clinical, behavioral, and social health.

What are some of the core competencies of the HA?

Community Health Workers focus on helping individuals address the social challenges negatively impacting their health and we provide solutions.

Gain Trust

- Conduct home visit assessments and wellness checks
- Assist with obtaining insurance, selecting primary care provider, scheduling appointments, and provide health literacy education
- Arrange transportation to appointments
- Serve as patient advocate, accompanying to appointments
- Reinforce health education through cultural competence: language and culture, learning and comprehension abilities

Create connections between vulnerable, at-risk populations and community providers and healthcare systems

- Build relationships with social service agencies
- Gain support from community providers and non-profits
- Establish referral protocols and processes to expedite resource connections

Engage patient and family

- Establish support roles and accountabilities
- Teach family how to support patient and reinforce healthy behaviors
- Facilitate use of mobile technology and tele-health visits

Achieve Outcomes

- Evidence-based pathways
- Intervention tracking
- Routine monitoring, motivation and encouragement
- Re-education and assessment of new obstacles and challenges

Why is what Healthcare Alliance does important?

Historically, Prince George's County has grappled with the challenge of enhancing it's healthcare system to meet the needs of residents. When we formed a partnership with the Prince George's County Health Department, we developed a care management program using Community Health Workers and building collaborative partnerships with hospital systems, primary care providers, community-based organizations and county agencies to achieve better outcomes and cost savings, especially in populations with chronic disease.

Our vision is to help patients change their health behaviors, to achieve their best health, and to improve community health. In 2021, we:

- Helped **436** families obtain health insurance
- Conducted outreach to **1,857 residents**
- Provided care coordination to **331 patients with 714 problems** identified.
- Completed **1,771 interventions** that addressed the problems as well as **1,161 barriers**.
- Completed **4,234 phone calls, 347 text messages, 159 virtual visits** and **256 emails** and letters. Participated in **139 provider conferences**
- Coordinated **68 meal deliveries**.
- Helped patients meet **1,066 goals!**



Prince George's Healthcare Alliance: Chat with Barbara Banks-Wiggins cont.

Can you explain in your own words what HA's involvement is with the Housing Authority of Prince George's County (HAPGC) and transitioning public housing residents?

HAPGC cares deeply about the health and wellbeing of its residents and believe that healthy residents are happy tenants. But we also know that some of their residents face numerous obstacles that create health barriers and undermine their ability to lead healthy, productive lives.

Our goal is to assist these individuals with understanding their social barriers or obstacles, helping them apply for social service benefits they're eligible for, help them gain a better understanding of any medical condition they may have, to understand their healthcare needs and communicate their needs to care providers. We help them gain a better understanding of their risk-behaviors, navigate the healthcare system and build capacity for self-management

What's HA's relationship to the uninsured and underinsured?

We serve both insured and uninsured individuals. Our goals is to help those who are uninsured obtain health insurance because this expands their access to and options for receiving quality healthcare services.

We have Community Health Workers who are trained and certified Insurance Navigators. They provide insurance navigation and enrollment services to assist residents in understanding the coverage options available to them, helping consumers find affordable coverage that meets their needs, and assisting consumers beyond enrollment by providing health insurance literacy education, assisting them with selecting a primary care provider, scheduling an appointment, and educating on the importance of going to the doctor and accessing healthcare services for routine preventive care, chronic disease management, and non-urgent medical issues.

For those who are uninsured and unable to obtain insurance because of their documentation status, we have partnership and the Office of Emergency Management, as part of their COVID response, began distributing at-home rapid COVID-19 tests at designated locations in the community for in-person pick up.

What has your experience been in working with HAPGC?

The HAPGC has been a wonderful and collaborative partner! HAPGC department leaders, under the direction of Mr. Nathan Simms, have demonstrated the same level of passion, care and commitment that he has shown in order to support the needs of those known to be struggling.

We are honored to have been selected to support The Housing Authority's health and housing initiative and support the physical and behavioral health needs of their residents. Our partnership is strong because we have worked to build trust and share common values. HAPGC sets clear expectations. We have mutual respect and exceptional communication!

How does working with HAPGC help HA attain their goals?

Working with the HAPGC truly helped The Prince George's Healthcare Alliance, Inc. (PGHA) with our COVID Response Initiative. The Prince George's County Health Department and The Office of Emergency Management, as part of their COVID response, began distributing at-home rapid COVID-19 tests at designated locations in the community for in-person pick up.

However, many public housing residents are seniors, disabled or otherwise unable to pick up home tests from the distribution sites during hours of operation. The Prince George's Healthcare Alliance responded to this need and collaborated with HAPGC resident and site managers to deliver over 1,000 home test kits, KN95 masks and COVID-19 educational materials to **488 residents!**



Legal Statement

Please note that you can ask for a reasonable accommodation to use HAPGC's housing or services. This can include auxiliary aids or services, materials in an alternative format, or help in completing paperwork or changes to your housing based on your disability. Contact the 504 Coordinator at (301)883-5576 or email dhcd-504@co.pg.md.us for assistance.



Housing Authority of Prince George's County
9200 Basil Court, Suite #107,
Largo, Maryland 20774

