

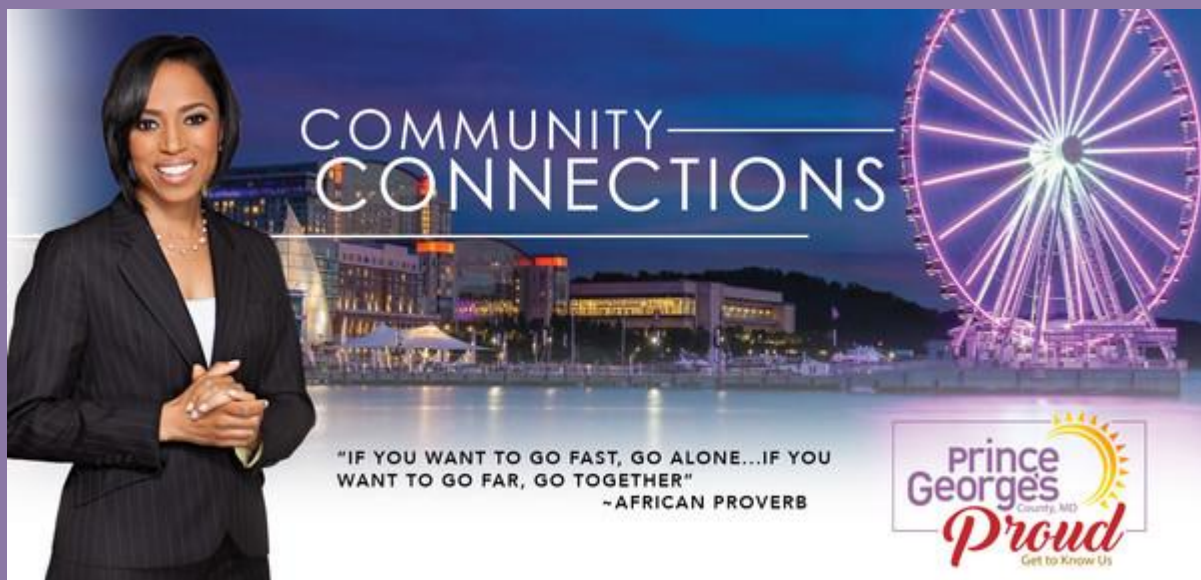


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Community Connections Newsletter: COVID-19 Update

Prince George's County Maryland sent this bulletin at 04/02/2020 12:33 PM EDT



Thursday, April 2, 2020

COVID-19 Update: New Resources Available for Businesses, Nonprofits and Residents

Dear Prince Georgians:

In the midst of these unprecedented times, I have been heartened by the actions of so many of you. You have been responsive to calls for social distancing, you have checked in on your neighbors and relatives, and you have stayed home and kept yourselves and others safe. For your collective spirit of caring and compassion, I thank you.

Yesterday I was [proud to announce](#) a number of resources to support our businesses, nonprofits, and residents. Through a coalition of County, and private resources, we have been able to pull together funds totaling \$15 million for the COVID-19 Business Relief Fund. Small businesses will have access to loans up to \$100,000 and grant funding of up to

\$10,000. Our Economic Development Corporation will begin taking applications on April 13th. The application period will be open until May 15th. Read more about this important resource [here](#).

In addition to the \$15 million relief fund for small businesses, my office is coordinating efforts with philanthropy, nonprofits, government, and small business leaders to collect and organize resources and funds for those providing COVID-19 relief efforts for Prince George's County.

This innovative public-private partnership will provide an additional \$900,000 in grants to support local nonprofits and small businesses to help them deliver the resources and assistance needed by the community during these challenging times. Two of the organizations distributing the funds include the Greater Washington Community Foundation and the United Way of the National Capital Area.

The generous financial donation of \$900,000 was provided to the Emergency Response Fund by Sam Brin, a former resident of Prince George's County. Years ago, Mr. Brin's refugee family faced challenging times of their own, and he has never forgotten how his family was welcomed into our County. Some of the groups selected to receive grants from the Emergency Response Fund include:

- **19 Local Nonprofit Organizations:** Will receive \$550,000 in funds to provide direct services and support addressing the immediate health and economic needs of individuals, youths, families, and disproportionately impacted communities in Prince George's County.
- **Prince George's County Public Schools:** Will receive \$100,000 for the purchase of new devices for students to access distance learning and other online resources.
- **United Way of the National Capital Area:** Will receive \$250,000 to support small businesses in the County assisting with the coordination of food relief efforts.

To learn more about the Community Foundation's COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund, visit their website [here](#).

For residents who may be facing unemployment due to being laid off, Employ Prince George's is launching the Prince George's County COVID-19 Hourly Employee Assistance Fund. The fund is available for laid-off hourly workers who earned less than \$19 an hour, giving Prince George's County residents access to an Employ Prince George's cash card of up to \$200. A number of retailers, grocers, and restaurants in Prince George's County will offer discounts to those making purchases with these Employ Prince George's cash cards. Employ Prince George's will begin taking applications the week of April 6th [online here](#).

In addition to these County resources, the federal government passed a stimulus package, known as the CARES Act, that will provide further resources for our residents. Some of the items included in this relief package include:

- **Stimulus Checks:** \$1,200 payments to individual taxpayers making up to \$75,000 a year, and \$2,400 payments to married couples filing jointly making under \$150,000 a year. Reduced checks will be available for higher incomes.
- **Expanded Unemployment Insurance:** Eligibility has been expanded to 39 weeks and benefits extended to those who are self-employed, gig workers and freelancers. Benefits will also increase by an additional \$600 per week for up to four months.

- **Mortgage Relief:** Homeowners with federal-backed mortgages can apply for forbearance for six months through their lender.
- **Paid Sick Leave:** Both full-time and part-time employees are eligible for 80 hours of paid sick leave, and those caring for a sick loved one are eligible for two-thirds pay.
- **Paid Family Leave:** Up to 12 weeks of family leave is available for those who need to stay home because of school closures due to COVID-19.
- **Student Loans:** Federal student loan payments are automatically suspended for six months and no interest will accrue.

We also want to remind our residents about Governor Hogan's stay-at-home order that took effect at 8 PM on March 30, 2020. This requires that all Marylanders stay in their homes *except* for essential reasons, such as getting food, going to a financial institution and seeking necessary medical care and prescriptions. Remember that taking a walk or a bike ride is encouraged, but socializing with people outside your household or playing pick-up games such as basketball or soccer is prohibited. These are extraordinary times, and these limits are what we all must follow in order to save lives. For more information about the Governor's stay-at-home directive, [click here](#).

Per Governor Hogan, local law enforcement is tasked with enforcing the stay-at-home order. I want you to know that the Prince George's County Police Department is focused on community policing and will work to engage, inform and encourage residents. Our Police Department is focused on slowing the spread of this virus and saving lives, and the last thing they want to do is arrest and fine residents for violating the stay-at-home order. Instead, we will focus on informing residents of the order and encouraging them to stay home, with penalties outlined in the Governor's order being our very last resort.

I also want to remind residents about the COVID-19 screening site at FedExField. This location is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, by appointment only. Our residents who do not have access to a primary care physician can begin the process of making an appointment at no-cost through the Prince George's County's Health Department's COVID-19 Hotline by calling 301-883-6627. Those who have a prescription to be tested from their primary care doctor must also call our hotline to receive an appointment date and time to go to the site for testing.

At our press conference yesterday, Dr. Goldson also announced the plan for distance learning. Starting April 14th, Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) will be teaching students remotely under a distance learning platform. PGCPS has conducted a technology needs-assessment survey and is currently distributing Chromebooks to students in need to assist them with this phase of learning. To learn more about distance learning plans and Chromebook distribution, [please click here](#). Know that under Maryland's new stay-at-home order, picking up meals, digital devices, and instructional materials necessary for distance learning is permitted.

Finally, we want to provide you with a few updates from your County Government on services and programs still available to our residents.

The **Office of the Sheriff** is reminding citizens that neither the Sheriff nor other law enforcement agencies will call residents about outstanding legal matters, including requesting payment to resolve any legal matter. The Sheriff advises citizens to be on alert for scammers who may be taking advantage of the fact that families are at home more than usual due to COVID-19.

The **Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS)** has added many new virtual programs, including a weekly [Community Conversation with CEO Roberta Phillips](#) (Thursdays at 4 PM), [Virtual Read-Alouds](#) (weekdays at 10 or 11am), [STEM at Home](#) activities (Fridays at 12 PM), [Storytelling with ASL](#) (Saturdays at 10:30 AM), and [Yoga for Kids](#) (Saturdays at 11 AM). View the full virtual event lineup [here](#).

New temporary resources are added daily ([English](#) & [Spanish](#)) and home access is now available for [Ancestry](#) and [Foundation Directory Online Essential](#). Those who do not have library cards may register for a virtual library card that provides access to eBooks, audiobooks, streaming music and movies, and online resources (including [Kanopy](#) and [Hoopla](#)). Prince Georgians are reminded to complete the [Online Library Survey](#) by Friday, April 10, 2020.

Our **Department of the Environment (DoE)** continues to provide trash, recycling and yard trim collection services on schedule. Residents are reminded that all trash **MUST** be bagged and tied securely before placing in trash carts, roll-offs or dumpsters.

The Prince George's County Organics Composting Facility is closed to the public for all services and is open to commercial/business customers only. Residents who do not have curbside collection may drop-off yard trim at the County's Convenience Drop-off Centers during regular hours of operation.

The **Office of Information Technology (OIT)** has worked quickly to expand digital capabilities so that County agencies and services can be performed while practicing social distancing and complying with stay-at-home directives. OIT has implemented virtual meeting solutions in order to facilitate remote meetings, hearings, town halls, and events that support the community and County Government, ensuring your County Government continues to be able to serve the public.

The **Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County (RDA)** has \$900,000 in available funding for its Commercial Property Improvement Program (CPIP) and is now accepting applications for funding. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the **application deadline has been extended to Thursday, May 7, 2020 by 3:00 PM**. The CPIP was established to assist owners of shopping centers and main street retail space with exterior facade, place making, lighting and major building systems improvements that enhance retail competitiveness and viability. Email all questions to [Victor Sherrod at the RDA](#), and look for responses to questions which will be posted to the RDA's website on Thursday, April 23, 2020. For more information, visit the RDA's [website](#) and click on Commercial Property Funding Availability, or e-mail Mr. Sherrod at VSherrod@co.pg.md.us.

Our **Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE)** has modified its delivery of services as it abides by the social distancing directive, however the agency continues to assist customers through increased online services. Every effort is being made to be as responsive as possible to those who require services. For more information, visit the [DPIE website](#).

Finally, the **Prince George's County Human Relations Commission** has halted in-person appointments. Their efforts to fight discrimination and to ensure Prince George's County is a welcoming place for all who live, work, and play here continue. If you have a complaint of discrimination and would like to schedule an intake appointment to discuss your complaint, please call 240-695-7220. All intake appointments will be conducted by phone or via video conference until further notice. For more information about the Human Relations Commission, please visit their [website](#).

Prince Georgians, please remember that we are strong and we are resilient. We will get through this together. I want to end by sincerely thanking those on the frontlines of this pandemic - our first responders, our medical professionals, our utility workers, our custodial staff, our grocery store workers, and so many more. Thank you for working hard to keep us safe and keep us well. I am Prince George's Proud of you, and of all Prince Georgians, for your great spirit of compassion and your strength during these difficult times.

Yours in service,

Angela Alsobrooks

Prince George's County Executive

Press Conference - April 1, 2020

Click Here or Below to Watch



Additional Resources

Census Virtual Midday Meet-Up



The poster features a vibrant background with colorful, out-of-focus light spots in shades of blue, purple, and green, creating a festive atmosphere. Silhouettes of people with their arms raised are visible against the bright light on the right side. The main title 'CENSUS MIDDAY MEET-UP' is prominently displayed in the center, with 'CENSUS' in large blue letters, 'MIDDAY' in large green letters, and 'MEET-UP' in large white letters. Above the title, the Prince George's County seal and the 'Prince Georges Proud' logo are visible. Below the title, the event details are listed: 'SATURDAY APRIL 4TH', '2PM - 4PM', 'HOSTED BY JOE CLAIR', and 'LIVE AT CEX.MYPGC.US'. A circular portrait of Joe Clair, a smiling man with a beard wearing a tan jacket, is positioned to the left of the event details. At the bottom right, there are logos for 'prince george's county Office of Community Relations', 'Proud to be Counted', and '2020 Census'.

Prince Georges Proud

Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive

CENSUS MIDDAY MEET-UP

SATURDAY APRIL 4TH
2PM - 4PM
HOSTED BY JOE CLAIR
LIVE AT CEX.MYPGC.US

prince george's county
Office of Community Relations

Proud to be
Counted

2020
Census

Complete Your Census Today



NATIONAL CENSUS DAY

APRIL 1, 2020

The 2020 Census is here and you have the power to help shape how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding are distributed to your local community for years to come.

The Census can be filled out online, over the phone or by mail.

To complete your Census TODAY, visit my2020Census.gov or call 844-330-2020.

Proud to be 
Counted

census
2020 
PRINCE GEORGE'S MARYLAND
Proud

Federal Stimulus Fact Sheet

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) CARES Act Fact Sheet



Checks to Eligible Individuals

- \$1200 payment to individual taxpayers making up to \$75,000 a year.
- \$2400 payment for married couples filing jointly making under \$150,000 a year.
- Reduced checks available for higher income levels, up to \$99,000 for individuals and \$198,000 for married couples.
- An additional \$500 per qualifying child under the age of 17.



Expanded Unemployment Insurance

Workers are eligible for:

- Additional \$600 per week for up to four months.
- Expanded eligibility to 39 weeks.
- Benefits extended to self-employed, gig workers, and freelancers.



Student Loans

- Federal student loan payments are automatically suspended for six months and no interest will accrue.
- Borrowers should still check with the loan service provider to ensure the suspension is in place.



Paid Sick Leave

Both full-time and part-time employees are eligible for:

- 80 hours of paid sick leave, to a maximum of \$511/day (\$5110 per worker).
- Those staying home to care for a sick loved one are eligible for two-thirds pay, to a maximum of \$200/day (\$2000 per worker).

Paid Family Leave

Businesses with fewer than 500 employees can offer employees:

- Up to 12 weeks of family leave to stay home for school closures due to COVID-19.
- The maximum benefit is two-thirds of pay (with first two weeks without pay), to a maximum of \$200/day (\$10,000 per worker).



Mortgage Relief (Fannie Mae/Freddie Mac)

- Homeowners with federally-backed mortgages who are experiencing financial hardship can apply for forbearance for six months, homeowners must **REQUEST** this.
- Interest will still accumulate but no fees or penalties will accrue for the period.

Businesses



- Expands emergency disaster loan program by funding \$10 billion to small businesses to help cover expenses including sick leave, payroll and rent.
- Businesses adversely affected by COVID-19 are eligible for a tax credit of \$5,000 for wages paid to each employee.

COVID-19 Hourly Employee Relief Fund



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY **COVID-19** HOURLY EMPLOYEE RELIEF FUND

SUPPORT OUR CAUSE AT EMPLOYPG.ORG/HOW-YOU-CAN-HELP/

In response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), Employ Prince George's, the Greater Washington Community Foundation, and Partners, have launched the Prince George's County Covid-19 Hourly Employee Relief Fund. This fund provides \$200 cash cards to Prince George's County residents who were recently laid off due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

How To Apply:

Step 1

Visit www.employpgedge.com and register with Employ Prince George's

Step 2

Select "Apply for Prince George's County COVID-19 Hourly Employee Relief Fund"

Step 3

Complete the required applicant questionnaire

Step 4

Upload the required documentation to confirm your layoff is due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

Step 5

Confirm and monitor your email updates

Share the Prince George's
County COVID-19 Relief Fund
on social media and hashtag
#COVID19RELIEFPGC

Employ Prince George's assesses all Prince George's County COVID-19 Hourly Employee Relief Fund applications one by one. There is limited financial resources available and priority will be given to hourly workers who earned \$19 or less prior to being laid off due to the pandemic.

The **Prince George's County COVID-19 Hourly Employee Relief Fund** is made possible by generous contributions from Employ Prince George's Board of Directors, the Greater Washington Community Foundation, Prince George's County Businesses and Community members. Through these economic hardships, Employ Prince George's is dedicated to partnering and meeting the needs of those negatively effected by the pandemic.

Join our efforts and make your donation at www.employpg.org/how-you-can-help/.



#WeAreEPG



Contact Us Today



Call: (301) 618-8445



www.EmployPG.org/COVID19



WSD@co.pg.md.us

COVID-19 Scams

STOP COVID-19 SCAMS



Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive

Now is the time to be mindful of scams that may occur through email, text, phone calls, mail or in-person. Here are tips to help you remain vigilant:



There are no door-to-door coronavirus tests being offered



Before donating to a charity, check with the Maryland Secretary of State's Office at 410-974-5521 to make sure a charity is registered



WATCH FOR FAKE PRODUCTS – there are no vaccines for coronavirus at this time



Utility companies or your bank will never call you for your personal information



The Social Security Administration will never call you asking for money



IF IT IS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, THEN IT LIKELY IS

GET HELP: Call (410) 576-6300 **LEARN MORE:** Visit www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/

COVID-19 Victim/Witness Response

PGSAO COVID-19 Victim/Witness Response

The Office of the State's Attorney for Prince George's County (SAO) remains responsive to the needs of its residents during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Victim/Witness Unit within the SAO is readily available to assist all residents of Prince George's County.

A Victim Witness Specialist is available in the office daily (M-F), while the courthouse is closed to the public. We have designated the following email and emergency telephone number for all questions and concerns:



301-267-3447



VictimWitnessSAO@co.pg.md.us

Questions about pending domestic violence cases may be sent to the SAO's Special Victims Unit at:



SpecialVictimsFVU@co.pg.md.us

The Commissioner's Offices in Hyattsville and Upper Marlboro remain open to apply for protective orders. Law enforcement is still responding to all domestic violence and 9-1-1 calls for service. Local Special Victim Assistants are available by phone to speak to anyone with questions at 301-780-8426. The Prince George's Hospital Center (DVSAC) remains open to perform sexual assault and strangulation exams, 301-618-3154.

We continue to provide emergency housing and relocation services and are working directly with our partners on referrals for any additional services or resources needed.

****In the event of an emergency or if
you need immediate assistance, please call 9-1-1**



"We are a strong county because we care about one another. I am confident that we will get through this crisis and come out stronger together." - Aisha Braveboy, State's Attorney

Family Justice Center

The Prince George's County Family Justice Center (FJC) is currently facilitating referrals to its 23 partners that are teleworking from their respective locations.

Services include:

- Advocacy
- Emergency and temporary shelter
- Supportive social services



*All services are provided to clients in both English and Spanish.

For direct assistance, please call:



301-780-8008 *(M-F 8:30am-5pm)

Prince George's County Child Protective Services



301-909-2137 (24/7)

National Domestic Violence Hotline



1-800-799-7233 (24/7)

*All calls are free and confidential

Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center

Despite the pandemic, MCVRC continues to serve all victims of crime throughout the State of Maryland.

We provide:

- Assistance navigating the legal system
- Free legal consultation regarding crime victims' rights
- Assistance with social service organizations

Our staff, dedicated advocates and attorneys are available to help ease the suffering of victims of crime in Maryland with dignity, respect and compassion. MCVRC staff is accepting calls at the numbers listed below.



301-952-0063 *(M-F 8:30am-5pm)
Toll Free 1-877-VICTIM-1



<http://sao.mypgc.us> | @pgsaonews





Wayne K. Curry County Administration Building

1301 McCormick Drive, Suite 4000
Largo, Maryland 20774



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