

# RECESSION RESOURCES

## United Way Can Help You Navigate Difficult Times



Every member of our community is feeling the effects of the economic downturn at some level. For some, the current situation has meant the loss of a job and possibly even a financial or housing crisis. For others, there is no immediate crisis, but it has driven home the need to make sound decisions to safeguard a family or individual's security and well-being.

### WHERE TO TURN

Knowing where to turn and taking control of a difficult situation can reduce strain on you and your family. **United Way is here to offer support and resources specific to your concerns.**

United Way offers a **"First Call for Help"** information and referral line available Monday through Friday, 9am - 5pm. The trained and experienced specialists who answer your call maintain your confidentiality while connecting you to comprehensive community health & social service resources. Call United Way of Chester County for information about:

- Rent/Utility Assistance
- Food
- Legal Assistance
- Shelter
- Support Groups, and more

### UNITED WAY FIRST CALL FOR HELP

**610-429-9400**

If you have access to a computer with an internet connection, you can also find resources online by using the Chester County web-based information and referral database, **ReferWeb**, at [www.referweb.net/chesco](http://www.referweb.net/chesco).

### NETWORK OF SERVICES

United Way works every day in the areas of Education, Income, Health and Basic Needs, to provide an array of services beyond financial matters but critical to quality of life in Chester County. Our Community Impact network of organizations provides a safety net for community members facing unusual circumstances navigating ongoing challenges. United Way's First Call for Help can assist you in accessing services from these and other sources for issues from family concerns to healthcare, support, education, and more.

### FACING A CRISIS

If you are faced with a life-threatening emergency, please call 9-1-1 right away.

#### MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS LINE

**877-918-2100 or 610-918-2100**

If you or someone you know is facing a mental health crisis, immediate help is available.

### BASIC NEEDS

#### UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

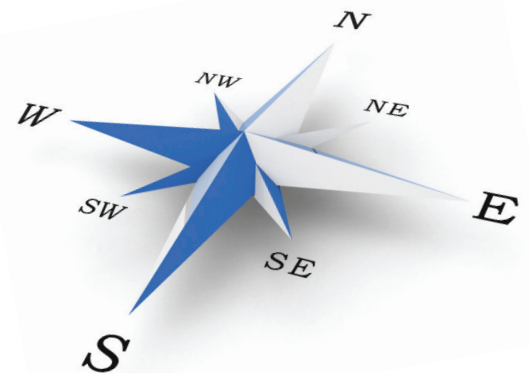
If you are laid off, be sure to inquire about your eligibility for Pennsylvania State Unemployment Compensation benefits through the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry. Call 717-787-5279 or apply online at [www.dli.state.pa.us](http://www.dli.state.pa.us).

#### STATE BENEFITS

Visit [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us) to check your eligibility for public assistance and other benefits.

**United Way  
of Chester County**  
211 North Walnut St.  
West Chester, PA 19380  
**610-429-9400**

[www.uwconline.org](http://www.uwconline.org)



## FOOD RESOURCES

### **Chester County Food Bank**

**610-344-6640**

**[www.chestercountyfoodbank.org](http://www.chestercountyfoodbank.org)**

The Chester County Food Bank, Inc. is the hub of a network of over 65 food cupboards and feeding sites throughout Chester County promoting community planning, inter-agency cooperation, information & referral, emergency assistance and fair housing information.

## HOME WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

### **Share the Warmth**

**610-429-9400**

A properly winterized home can reduce utilities and home repair expenses for homeowners. United Way's winterization program, Share the Warmth, coordinates existing community resources, volunteers, and funding for local households who may be in need of winterization services. If you or someone you know might qualify, call United Way at 610-429-9400.

## FINANCIAL & CREDIT COUNSELING

**610-429-9400**

The **United Way Financial Stability Partnership of Chester County** provides services that can help you move away from crisis financial management and better plan for the future. The partnership provides coordinated and comprehensive guidance through its provider network including:

- Financial education
- Tax preparation/ EITC Education
- Planning & Community awareness
- Asset building & protection
- Savings & money management programs
- Credit repair & debt reduction
- Housing counseling, and more!

## United Way Can Help You Make a Difference in Your Community

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **United Way of Chester County's Volunteer Center**

**610-429-9400**

**[www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org)**

Volunteers save organizations thousands of dollars that can instead be used to provide critical services in the community. But did you know volunteers report higher levels of happiness which improves well-being and feelings of isolation? Volunteering also provides opportunities for networking, is an asset on job applications, and can offer new skills. The Volunteer Center at United Way can match you with a number of projects suited to your goals and expertise.

#### **Chester County Leadership Connection (CCLC)**

In partnership with West Chester University and Chester County Chamber of Business & Industry, United Way of Chester County offers a leadership development and board service preparation course. This unique program educates participants about Chester County nonprofits and the community issues they address. Graduates find placement on nonprofit boards of directors, applying their business acumen to developing social service organizations. For more information, visit [www.uwcconline.org](http://www.uwcconline.org) or call 610-429-9400.