



March 20, 2020

Thank you to all those that have shown concern and support for our homeless population. We have been inundated with requests for support and it is much appreciated during this time. The homeless shelter and housing providers in Charles County talk daily to discuss the changing information regarding COVID-19. Currently, these are the services that are still available to those that are homeless:

- Stand-alone shelters and transitional housing programs still have current participants in the program. *LifeStyles* is limiting individuals in those homes to current participants and are not accepting new intakes until further notice. Angel's Watch is reviewing referrals on a case-by-case basis to assess emergency shelter needs.
- *LifeStyles* has developed a homeless alert text messaging system to share information with the homeless population. This includes notifications of office closings and delays, street outreach dates and locations, and other pertinent information. Homeless clients are strongly encouraged to provide updated contact information to allow receiving such text messages.
- *LifeStyles* has implemented a strategy to utilize one of its homes for potential quarantine for existing homeless clients.
- The resource line "211" remains in operation to receive updated information regarding services that are still available during this time.
- Staff from all agencies are working to speak individually with clients to discuss temporary options, including staying with family and friends on a temporary basis, or if they have funds to stay in a hotel. Those that still have no options and need assistance, we are working with the Department of Social Services on a case-by-case basis.
- Public Schools is distributing free meals for breakfast, lunch and dinner from eleven school sites throughout the county for all families in need.
- Coordination efforts are being made amongst agencies to assist in getting households additional food support that do not have access to transportation or are considered part of the vulnerable population.
- Street outreach is being conducted Monday and Wednesday, March 23rd & 25th to general locations to provide food, water, and general supplies to the homeless population. More dates may be provided in the future.

- The county Department of Emergency Services is looking at the following resources for homeless individuals:
 - Wifi hot spot access
 - Public shower location(s)
 - Public locations to place free food and water

Agencies are still in need of the following:

- Supplies of hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes and spray, toilet tissue and Kleenex, and bottled water
- Donations of non-perishable food for shelter programs. Donations can be received at the following locations (as of today):
 - Catholic Charities' Angel's Watch: Call 301-274-0680
 - Robert J. Fuller Transitional House for Men: 3470 Rockefeller Court, Waldorf
 - LifeStyles' office (until further notice): 101 Catalpa Drive, Suite 103, La Plata

The Charles County Department of Health has a call center operating from Mondays – Fridays, 8am – 5pm. Persons can call 301-609-6717.