



Prince George's County  
Commission for Women  
Women on a Mission



Angela D. Alsobrooks  
County Executive

# CFW Connector

SUMMER 2021

## Greetings from the Commission

Greetings,

This newsletter is designed to inform, engage and empower women and girls in Prince George's County. In honor of Homeownership Month which was held in June, this issue features housing-related resources for County residents. We welcome your feedback on this newsletter and other programs of the CFW. *"Empowered Women Empower Other Women."*

Sincerely,  
Prince George's County Commission for Women



## JUNE MONTHLY FOCUS: HOUSING

### FORECLOSURE PREVENTION DURING COVID-19

Borrowers affected by the coronavirus pandemic who have difficulty paying their mortgage should reach out to their mortgage servicer or a HUD-certified Housing Counseling Agency as soon as possible. The following link has common questions with answers from local HUD-certified Housing Counseling Agencies: [Foreclosure Prevention During COVID-19](#)

### UTILITY ASSISTANCE

For assistance to pay utilities, tenants should apply at the Maryland Department of Human Services, Office of Home Energy Programs at the following link: <https://dhs.maryland.gov/office-of-home-energy-programs/how-do-you-apply/> or tenants can contact their utility provider(s) to discuss assistance options available to them.

- BGE: <https://www.bge.com/MyAccount/CustomerSupport/Pages/AssistancePrograms.aspx>
- Washington Gas: <https://www.washingtongas.com/home-owners/savings/energy-assistance>
- PEPCO: [https://www.pepco.com/MyAccount/CustomerSupport/Pages/MD/AssistancePrograms\(MD\).aspx](https://www.pepco.com/MyAccount/CustomerSupport/Pages/MD/AssistancePrograms(MD).aspx)

On June 1st, County Executive Angela Alsobrooks, in partnership with the County's Department of Social Services, Pepco, WSSC Water, The Salvation Army and Washington Gas, hosted a Utility Assistance Town Hall to provide information to the community on various assistance programs that are available, as well as eligibility requirements:

- Video Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQ1ayBi2UqY&t=109s>
- Presentation: <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/3444>

## EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ERAP)

The County Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) announced the opening of the new Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) on March 4, 2021, offering relief to landlords on behalf of renters experiencing financial difficulties due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Landlords or tenants may be eligible to apply. Click [here](#) for full-sized flyer.

DHCD has partnered with several community organizations that will offer free assistance to landlords and tenants. Visit [www.hcd.mypgc.us](http://www.hcd.mypgc.us) for info or to complete an application.

## ASSISTANCE FROM THE PGC DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

The Prince George's County Department of Social Services (DSS) has programs to assist County residents with emergency housing, homelessness, food insecurity, health resources and more. [Click here](#) for a brief synopsis of DSS programs. Visit the DSS website: <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/1629/Social-Services>

## LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR TENANTS

Tenants in need of legal representation, or with questions about COVID-19 evictions and protections, may contact Community Legal Services of Prince George's County and Maryland Legal Aid for help. For more information, <https://www.clspgc.org/>.

## STATE EVICTION GUIDANCE

The MD State Attorney General has released "**Residential Eviction in Maryland: Information for Tenants**," to help individuals and families who will be facing eviction, particularly due to nonpayment of rent during the COVID-19 pandemic. Click [here](#) for full guidance document. Source Alonzo T. Washington, Maryland State Delegate.

Source for Housing Resources: Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)

## OTHER FOCUS AREAS FOR JUNE

**Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month.** The Alzheimer's Association sponsors [Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month](#) to raise awareness about Alzheimer's and other dementias. Share [these Alzheimer's and healthy aging infographics](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

**National Safety Month.** The National Safety Council recognizes [National Safety Month](#), to keep everyone safe.

**Juneteenth.** Celebrated on June 19<sup>th</sup>, Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. It marks the date that the last enslaved people (in Texas) learned of their freedom.

**National HIV Testing Day.** Sponsored by HIV.gov, on June 27<sup>th</sup> to encourage people to get tested for HIV, know their status, and get linked to care and treatment. See [CDC resource for information on the importance of HIV testing](#).

### Prince George's Emergency Rental Assistance Program Relaunch

The Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is now offering emergency rental assistance to landlords on behalf of tenants experiencing financial difficulties due to the COVID-19 pandemic through the relaunch of its Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP).\*

**The ERAP Relaunch Opens Thursday, March 4, 2021**  
Applications accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis.

#### Who can apply?

Landlords, holding a valid County rental license, with occupied rental units.

#### What can ERAP cover?

Landlords may apply for each tenant's delinquent rental payments beginning on or after April 1, 2020 for up to 12 months of back rent. The monthly amount of assistance is based on the actual rent value less all late fees, interest, and other costs associated with the tenant's default.

Rent assistance will be paid directly to the landlord/management company on behalf of the tenant through ACH direct deposit.

Visit the DHCD website for detailed information about the Emergency Rental Assistance Program and to check for:

- Required Landlord Documentation Needed for Submission with Application
- FAQ's

#### Tenant Eligibility Requirements

- Have a valid lease agreement in their name.
- Income eligible families whose annual income does not exceed 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI), as determined by HUD, and adjusted for household size (check DHCD website for AMI eligibility).
- Able to show income loss due to COVID-19.

Tenants will not need to provide a Social Security number or birth certificate to apply.

### What If My Landlord Refuses to Apply?

Tenants unable to pay their rent due to a loss of income because of COVID-19, may apply for rental assistance for up to 6 months in arrears and utility assistance, if their landlord will not apply for rental assistance funding on their behalf.

Rent assistance will be paid directly to the landlord/management company on behalf of the tenant through ACH direct deposit.

Utility assistance will be paid directly to the utility company on behalf of the tenant.

Visit the DHCD website for detailed information about the Emergency Rental Assistance Program and to check for:

- Required tenant documentation needed for submission with the application
- Where tenants can receive assistance with completing and submitting an application
- FAQ's

**Learn More & Apply:** [hcd.mypgc.us](http://hcd.mypgc.us)

\*This project is being supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number ERA0202 awarded to Prince George's County, MD Government by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.





## JULY MONTHLY FOCUS

### HAPPY JULY 4th! INDEPENDENCE DAY IN THE UNITED STATES

On July 2nd, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later delegates from the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson. In doing so, the 13 American colonies declared freedom from the monarch of Britain, King George III.

In 1870, the U.S. Congress made July 4th a federal holiday; in 1941, expanded provisions granted a paid holiday to federal employees. Source: History.com

Image by Alexey Hulsov from Pixabay

July is **Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month** and **National Culinary Arts Month**.

July is also **National Ice Cream Month** in the U.S.

July 11th through the 17th is **National Therapeutic Recreation Week** in the United States.

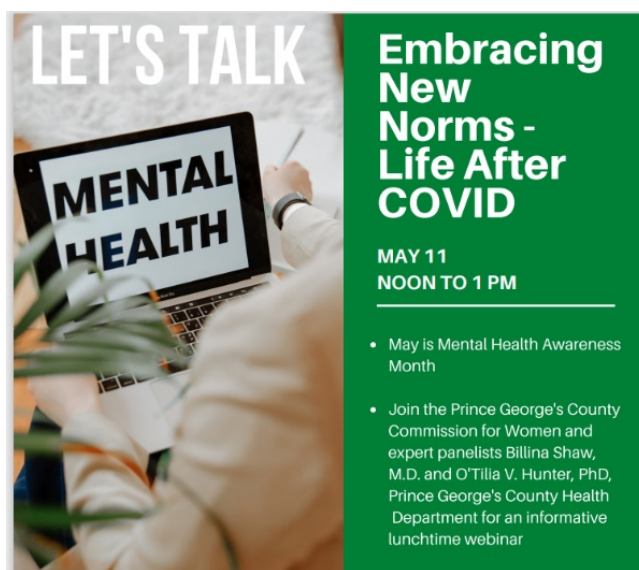
## PAST EVENTS

### MENTAL HEALTH WEBINAR

The Commission for Women hosted a free Webinar – ***Real Talk: Embracing the New Normal, Post – COVID-19*** on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 from noon to 1 PM.

This informative webinar featured two Prince George's County Health Department professionals, Dr. O'Tilia Hunter and Dr. Billina Shaw who shared valuable tips for embracing our new normal, post-COVID-19 and beyond. Participants also heard from three County residents who shared personal experiences and how they took advantage of available resources to address their specific needs. The webinar highlighted the need to remain hopeful, allow yourself to feel, engage in exercise and mindful meditation, and take and give yourself a break.

Click here to access resources from the Prince George's County Health Department: [behavioral health resources](#)



### CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS CAMPAIGN

The CFW participated as a Community Champion by promoting mental health in May through education and programs. The campaign brings together non-profit organizations, schools, and other agencies throughout Maryland to help raise public awareness of the importance of children's mental health and substance use. For more information visit

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthmatters.org/>

### LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP—BUSINESS FOCUS

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, CFW Commissioners attended the Prince George's County Chamber of Commerce 2021 Virtual Legislative Wrap-Up Meeting to hear from Federal, State and County officials as they reviewed the legislative session in Annapolis. This was a great follow-up to our **CFW Legislative Briefing** in February 2021.

On May 13th, Tamie Watkins, Co-Chair of the Prince Georges County Chamber of Commerce Legislative Committee presented a legislative summary during the May meeting of the CFW. Ms. Watkins, who is a former member of CFW, provided a broad overview of legislative bill results, noting the shortened 2020 Legislative Session due to COVID-19. She shared that there is a lot of support in Annapolis for tele-health, as well as mental and behavior health services and support. She highlighted several bills as important to the CFW, including Social Justice and Police Accountability; Juvenile Parole; the Kirwan Commission Education Bill; Teacher Compensation and Early Childhood Education.



## COVID-19 Women's Needs Assessment

COVID-19 has challenged all of us, but women and girls throughout the world have been disproportionately impacted economically, socially, physically and mentally.

In October 2020, the CFW recommended a study of the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls in Prince George's County and created a **Needs Assessment Survey** to understand the impact of the pandemic and services that may be needed to assist women, girls and families in Prince George's County.

Launched in January 2021, the short survey is still available at: <http://bit.ly/CFWCommunitySurvey>  
Your input is vitally important to this effort and greatly appreciated. Thank you.

## COVID-19 HEALTH-RELATED RESOURCES

**The COVID-19 Data Dashboard:** Stay informed of the progress the County is making with vaccine distribution.

**Frequently Asked Questions:** Get answers to your questions about COVID-19 vaccines.

**County Latest Updates:** The latest updates will be posted at [mypgc.us/COVIDVaccine](http://mypgc.us/COVIDVaccine).

**Federal Vaccine Information:** [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov)



[MYPGC.US/COVIDVACCINE](http://MYPGC.US/COVIDVACCINE)

## CFW VOLUNTEERS

If you are interested in volunteer opportunities, please review the CFW Website [list of committee descriptions and strategic priorities](#) for 2021 and complete the form below.

<https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/3497/Become-a-CFW-Volunteer>

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**Mission.** The Prince George's County Commission for Women serves to improve the quality of life for women and girls by advocating, initiating, and championing programs and legislation to strengthen families and communities.

Check the CFW website for monthly meeting dates, times, and access information.

If you have any questions, please email [PG.CommissionforWomen@gmail.com](mailto:PG.CommissionforWomen@gmail.com) or call 301-778-4381

Commission Liaison: Lyrica Welch

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