

Hardee Help Center PSA

Response to Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Posted: March 16, 2020 at 10:00 AM

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease and has been declared as a public health emergency of international concern by the World Health Organization (WHO). It has also been declared a public health emergency in the United States by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Resources (HHR).

Governor Ron DeSantis has recently declared a state of emergency in Florida. Health officials are especially concerned because the disease is being spread from person to person. Although there are no coronavirus cases present in our service area, one of our goals is to safely operate our Center for all of our employees, volunteers, and clients.

Our on-site events and Client Welcome Center do not typically bring more than 20 people together, however several of our event attendees are those most vulnerable to coronavirus; individuals who are 65 and older. Additionally, weekly volunteers and staff are themselves older adults, or live with someone who is. It is with caution that several events have been canceled, and we are changing normal service distribution methods, in order to continue providing help to Hardee County families.

Activation of our emergency relief efforts, including mobile distribution of services, result when our local community is affected during state of emergencies, with the focus of those efforts on the most vulnerable in Hardee County.

Administrative Hours

- The week of March 16 administrative personnel will redirect their efforts from regular operational tasks to emergency relief planning and implementation involving preparation and distribution of services.
- Emails to the Executive Director, Lidenia Servin (lidenia@hardeehelpcenter.com) and messages left in staff and general mailbox will be regularly monitored.

Client Welcome Center

- The requests for assistance methods through March 31:
 - Email: info@hardeehelpcenter.com
 - Telephone: 863-773-0034
 - Walk-ins, a screening at the front door intercom will take place.
 - **Monday, March 16 through Tuesday, March 31 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM (Closed Fridays)**
- Face-to-face appointments will be scheduled on a case-by-case basis through March 31.
- Closed Friday, March 20 and Friday, March 27 to give our personnel time to conduct additional preventative sanitations. For the safety of our staff, volunteers, and clients, we have increased the availability of hand sanitizers and disinfecting wipes throughout the Center.

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov>

Donations

- Funds, food, and non-food donations are critical for our programs to provide the best help to families, especially in state of emergencies.
- Most needed food items:
 - Canned goods (soups, ravioli, tuna, etc.)
 - Crackers
 - Juice bottles
 - Breakfast Items (cereal, oatmeal, grits, etc.)
 - Paper goods (paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, etc.)
 - Sanitizing supplies (disinfectant wipes and sprays)
- The donation drop off methods through March 31:
 - Walk-ins, a screening at the front door intercom will take place. Donations are welcome during these hours: Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM.
 - Call (863-773-0034) to arrange a drop off time where staff can be expecting your arrival, or to schedule a more convenient drop off time.

Volunteers

- We are seeking youth and adult volunteers:
 - During the week of March 16 through March 27 to help with packaging and delivery of food packages to our older adult clients.
 - For Friday, March 20 and Friday, March 27 to help with thorough sanitization of various areas of the Center.
- The volunteer sign-up methods through March 31:
 - Email: info@hardeehelpcenter.com
 - Telephone: 863-773-0034
 - Hardee Help Center Facebook Events

Cancelled Events

March 17 – Hardee Help Center Devotion and Lunch

March 24 and April 14 - Financial Education Class

March 31 and April 2 - Nutritional Education Class

We are actively monitoring the coronavirus updates from our local partners at Hardee County Emergency Operations Center, city and county government partners and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and will continue to respond based on the latest recommendations from our trusted local government, public health and medical professionals.

We hope these precautions will be to the benefit of all of our staff, volunteers, and clients. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we all work through this together. Please understand the fluidity of the situation, and that changes may be implemented with little notice.

Sincerely,

Lidenia Servin, Executive Director of Hardee Help Center