



CAPtions



A publication of FiveCAP, Inc.

January—April 2020

FiveCAP Modifies Services due to COVID-19

The Governor determined those of us providing services to low-income individuals and families to be “essential workers” during this crisis. However, the agency closed facilities effective April 10th as further directed and in compliance with the Governor’s Stay-in-Place Executive Order.

The agency is continuing to reach out to individuals and families to provide services and support while working remotely.

County Offices (temporarily closed, effective 4/10/2020—see website for updates and phone numbers for emergency assistance). Extra precautions taken to keep offices and common areas such as reception area, sign-in counters, pens, and restrooms clean and sanitized.

Limit 3 clients in the Reception Area at one time, and complying with 6 feet social distancing for both staff and with the public. With the current pandemic and for long-term planning, the agency is installing sneeze-guard barriers for all reception stations.

Phone Outreach: County Community Support Workers are making calls regularly to vulnerable clients (i.e. seniors, shut-in families without transportation) to check on their well-being and needs.

Emergency Food Pantry: Applications taken by phone, pre-packaged and delivered at door.

Emergency Shelter: Referring to MDHHS or other community providers.

Emergency Utilities: Applications taken over phone.

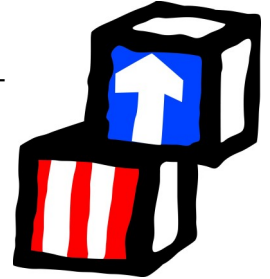
Food Distributions Scheduled: All scheduled food distributions continue with modifications. Food will be pre-packaged and delivered to car. Volunteers and staff will sanitize hands often and observe social distancing.

Tax Preparation: See article—Page 3.

Weatherization-Housing: Applications taken over the phone. See website www.fivecap.org for application checklist. Pre-Inspections, Weatherization, and Post-Inspections are suspended while the Stay-in-Place Executive Order is in effect. Thereafter, they will resume with client permission, precautions, and decided on a case-by-case basis.

Application for Services available on website. Any additional required documents may be submitted via fax, email, or mailed...or dropped off once offices re-open.

Head Start Centers are closed to children for the remainder of the program year. Teachers are continuing to engage with parents and deliver services to children and families to the extent possible remotely. Teachers are maintaining phone contact and send individualized activities, reminders, and toothbrush bags home to parents.



Early Head Start – Home Visits and Socialization activities are suspended while the Stay-in-Place Executive Order is in place. Early Head Start Home Visitors are maintaining twice weekly contact with families. Home Visitors are dropping off individualized activities weekly to parents’ door.

When the Stay-in-Place Order is lifted, Home Visits will resume, using an abundance of precautions including sanitization and social distancing.

FiveCAP is taking all precautions to protect staff and clients. Staff meetings are being held regularly by teleconference to discuss the status and needs of clients, and to discuss additional emergency critical grants and plan the best use of grants to provide supports that benefit low-income families, individuals and senior citizens in our service area.

Now more than ever!!

**People
Helping
People!**



FiveCAP, Inc. County Office Locations

Mason County (Main Office), Scottville—(231) 757-3785 Lake County, Baldwin—(231) 745-4617
Manistee County, Manistee—(231) 723-8327 Newaygo County, White Cloud—(231) 689-6688

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.fivecap.org

Visit the Idlewild Historic & Cultural Center website: www.historicidlewild.org



Close to 900 Seniors receive food in one day!!

CSFP Food Distribution held April 8th

With gloves, masks and all precautionary measures in place, FiveCAP staff and volunteers distributed food to **nearly 900** income-eligible senior citizens on April 8th.

This USDA program is designed to supplement the diets of seniors, 60 and older, with income at 130% or below the federal poverty level. This is a demographic that is often forced to make difficult choices when it comes to spending their fixed income. Good nutrition sometimes takes a backseat to other expenses like utilities and medications.

Distribution modifications included asking seniors to remain in their car, with name checked off list and food brought to the car. Participation was up slightly from prior distribution. **Special thanks to volunteers!!**



Below: Food set up for seniors Ludington Towers Apartments. Food delivered outside and set out for individual seniors to pick up.



Volunteer wearing mask.



Packing for delivery to seniors at Lawndale, Towers and Century Terrace Apartments.



Thank you to the following volunteers that helped with the CSFP food distribution:

- Lake County**
- Sandi Bowen
- Everett Bowen
- Chris Reynolds
- Robert "Bear" McLeod
- Eddie Mahan
- Steve Rockburn II

- Mason County**
- Jerry Dubois
- Eugene Smith
- Michael Anderson

- Newaygo County**
- Joe Thatcher
- Jacquelyn Deaton
- Yvonne Caughey
- Darlene Allen
- Mary Laatz
- Clifford Oles
- Gary Smith

- Manistee County**
- Kent Schwandt
- Glen Mandeville
- Terri Mandeville
- Larry Jarvinen
- Frank Cole
- Ronald McNally
- Rita Alton
- Lyman Griffin
- Velva Householder

HELP MICHIGAN COUNT!

**Complete the Census!
Every household and it's members must be counted**

The Census results will have a ten (10) year impact on Michigan. It will determine our share of federal dollars in many programs and it will determine numbers of Michigan Congressional Members. Michigan's voice will be strengthened or weakened by what we do now! Complete the Census using your smart phone or computer at <https://my2020census.gov>. Questions or need help? Call your FiveCAP County Office.



Free Tax Preparation Deadlines extended to July 15th

Call your local FiveCAP Office. Staff will assist low-income residents in preparing and e-filing Federal and State income taxes, Home Heating Credit, Homestead Property Tax/Rent Credit, and Child Tax Credit. **The service is free!!**

The 2019 IRS income tax deadline is extended from April 15, 2020 to July 15, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The State of Michigan income tax filing deadline is extended to July 15, 2020, per Executive Order 2020-26.

Face-to-face appointments are suspended until further notice. However, we encourage low-income residents to reach out to us to prepare/e-file taxes over the phone, so that they will be eligible to receive the Stimulus. Needed documents can be provided via fax or email, including your year-end tax documents (Social Security Benefit Statements, W-2(s), Child Support Statements, Unemployment 1099G, etc.).



FEDERAL STIMULUS CHECKS:

If on SSA or SSI, you do not need to do anything. Others must have filed federal income taxes for 2018 or 2019. FiveCAP Offices can assist in filing 2019 income taxes.

27th Annual Walk for Warmth raising funds

**Drastic times call for drastic measures!
Your help is needed!**

Walk for Warmth funds allow FiveCAP to help low-income families and senior residents in need who are barely over the threshold to meet qualifications for state or federal assistance, or to help low-income residents when state and federal funds are exhausted or delayed.

On **Saturday, February 15th**, sixty-two (62) people participated in the FiveCAP Walk for Warmth events, walking down city streets on a cold winter day to raise funds and awareness in Ludington, Manistee, Baldwin and White Cloud. **So far, this year's Walk for Warmth received a total of **\$15,560** in contributions which will be used to help Mason, Manistee, Lake and Newaygo County residents who are facing a home-heating emergency.** Funds are allocated to help people in the county they are raised.

Thank you to our service area communities for your support, and to our volunteers for helping to prepare a hot meal for walkers following the events.

Contributions are accepted year-round, and are especially needed during these difficult times with the coronavirus pandemic.



Above: Consumers Energy employees once again brought their A-Game in Mason County with blue hats and scarves to show their warmth and support. Over the years, the Consumers Energy company has been a big participating supporter, matching their employee pledges for the program.



Right and below: Community residents gather to show their support.



A **Charitable Contribution Form** can be found on our website

www.fivecap.org. For more information on emergency heat assistance, contact the FiveCAP office, located at 302 North Main St., in Scottville or call (231) 757-3785.



602 N. Main Street, P.O. Box 67, Scottville, MI 49215

Return Service Request

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CAPtions

Anita Brown
Chairperson,
Board of Directors

Mary L. Trucks
Executive Director

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Mark Your Calendar

Note: Due to COVID-19:

- Board of Directors and Policy Council Meetings will be held via teleconference until further notice.
- Head Start Centers closed for remainder of program year.

APRIL

April 8 CSFP Bi-Monthly Food Distribution
April 30 FiveCAP Board of Directors Meeting, 4pm

MAY

May 12 HS/EHS Policy Council Meeting, 10am
May 25 *Memorial Day Holiday—FiveCAP Offices Closed*
May 28 FiveCAP Board of Directors Meeting, 4pm
Gardening Workshops—to be advised.

JUNE

June 4 TEFAP Quarterly Food Distribution
June 5 Parent & Volunteer Honors Banquet—**CANCELLED**
June 9 HS/EHS Policy Council Meeting, 10am
June 10 CSFP Bi-Monthly Food Distribution
June 25 FiveCAP Board of Directors Meeting, 4pm

JULY

July 3 *Independence Day Holiday Observed—FiveCAP Offices Closed*
July 14 HS/EHS Policy Council Meeting, 10am
July 30 FiveCAP Board of Directors Meeting, 4pm

FiveCAP Programs & Services

Head Start

Early Head Start

Weatherization

Home Ownership Counseling

Foreclosure Prevention

Single Family Housing

Multi Family Housing

TEFAP

CSFP

Garden/Food Preservation

Educational Workshops

Food Pantry

Tax Preparation Assistance

Energy/Utility Assistance

Walk for Warmth

Toys for Tots/Gifts for Teens

Information & Referral

And more.....