



TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

159 Pantigo Road
East Hampton, New York 11937

PETER VAN SCOYOC
Supervisor

(631) 324-4140
pvanscoyoc@ehamptonny.gov

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Town of East Hampton's Department of Human Services Continues to Provide Critical Services to Seniors and Others in Need of Assistance

*Town collaborates with Meals on Wheels, East End Cares and
other non-profits for services and outreach*

The Town of East Hampton's Human Services Department continues to provide assistance to Seniors and other community members in need, operating Monday through Friday from 8 am – 4 pm at their offices at 128 Springs Fireplace Road. Those in need of assistance are asked to call the Department at 631.329.6939.

Since the Senior Center closed on March 10, 2020, in order to limit senior citizens' possible exposure to the coronavirus, Human Services staff have been calling Seniors who use Town programs as well as those community members who are on the Town's special needs list (on oxygen, wheelchair bound, on dialysis, etc.) and emergency services lists (residents who wish to be checked up on when there is an emergency). These calls serve as wellness checks and to ascertain if residents are in need of frozen meals, medical prescriptions, groceries, transportation to doctor's appointments, etc. Currently more than 500 residents are receiving calls every other day. These include folks who are on/participate in:

- Special Needs List
- Emergency List
- In Home Service Program
- Adult Daycare Program
- Senior Nutrition Program
- Senior Transportation Program
- Residential Repair Program

Once clients are called, the Department begins the process of sending drivers and other staff to deliver meals, pick up prescriptions, and/or go food shopping. It should be noted that staff members are using the proper PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) gloves while handling groceries, prescriptions and meals.

The Department has over 150 frozen meals on hand. Kitchen staff are preparing meals each day which in turn are frozen as Suffolk County regulations do not permit the town to deliver hot meals. Bus drivers are available to provide essential transportation services. The bilingual case manager is available to provide information/assistance in both English and Spanish.

Beginning Monday, March 23, 2020, those 60 and over will be able to pick up five frozen meals curbside at the Senior Center on Springs Fireplace Road. Residents just need to call ahead to arrange for pickup, or Human services staff can drop them off at the their residence. The Human Services Department is also referring clients to Meals on Wheels, which provides a sandwich for lunch and a hot meal for dinner. Meals on Wheels has informed the Town that they are ready to assist and have no intentions of slowing down and for that we are grateful.

In addition, the Town has been collaborating with the local food pantries, school districts, child-care centers and volunteer organizations such as East End Cares. Should folks who utilize our local food pantries not be able to pick up their groceries, Human Services staff is also picking up and delivering bags of food to the clients of the local food pantries. Again, call the Human Services Department at 631.329.6939 to make arrangements.

If a community member wishes to be placed on the Special Needs List or the Emergency List, or are in need of other services, they should contact the Human Services Department at 631.329.6939.