

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamps)

Apply at Fitchburg Transitional Assistance Office (TAO), 473 Main Street, Fitchburg

(978) 665-8700

Hours: Monday thru Friday, 7:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Montachusett Opportunity Council (MOC)

Community Services @ Green Acres

60 Normandy Road, Fitchburg (978) 342-8617

Provides food at the Leona Fleming Food Pantry; intake and referral services and case management for area low-income residents also provided at this location.

WIC (Women, Infants and Children’s Nutrition Program), 53 Merriam Avenue, Leominster

(978) 534-9117

Provides nutrition counseling, education, referrals and checks for nutritious foods redeemable at local supermarkets. Available for income eligible pregnant and postpartum women and children under age of 5.



THRIFT SHOPS/CLOTHING

Ginny’s Helping Hand

52 Mechanic Street, Leominster (978) 537-1387

Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Ruth’s Clothing Closet, Leominster United

Methodist Church, 77 Hall Street, Leominster

Mondays 10AM-1PM; 3rd Thursday 5:30PM-

7:30PM; 4th Saturday 8-10 AM. (978) 537-1356

St. Mark’s Episcopal Church

60 West Street, Leominster (978) 537-3560

Hours: Saturdays, 9 AM – 1 PM. If Saturday is not convenient, can contact church office Monday thru Friday from 9 AM – 1 PM to make arrangements to meet. Mostly clothes, but from time to time carry comforters, dishes, curtains, etc.



FUEL ASSISTANCE

Fuel Assistance/Low Income Heating Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

New England Farm Workers Council, 473 Main Street, 3rd Floor, Fitchburg (978) 342-4520

Provides eligible households help with winter heating bills. Applications are taken at Leominster City Council Chambers, please check with Mayor’s Office for dates and times.

Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)

Montachusett Opportunity Council’s Emergency

Food and Fuel Fund. (978) 343-5706

EFSP helps to pay for utilities, rent and mortgage payment. MOC’s Fund helps to pay for utilities, including oil.

Salvation Army Good Neighbor Fund

Fitchburg, Leominster residents: (978) 342-3300

Available to any Massachusetts resident who, because of temporary financial difficulty, cannot meet a month’s energy expense and is not eligible for fuel assistance. Please call for further information.

Citizens Energy 877 Joe-4oil (877) 563-4645

Works with oil dealers and fuel assistance agencies to provide deliveries of home heating oil to those in need.

City of Leominster Mayor’s Energy Assistance

(978) 534-7500

The Mayor’s Office and the Office of Planning and Development will work with oil and utility companies to provide deliveries of home heating oil and other home heating resources to those who qualify. Funds are limited. Applications available November 1st.



TAX RELIEF/TAX ASSISTANCE

Elderly & Disabled Tax Relief Fund (978) 534-7531

Purpose is to help defray the real estate taxes of elderly and disabled persons of low income in Leominster. Applications are taken in the Assessor’s Office from January through March each year.

VITA—Montachusett Opportunity Council, Inc.

(MOC)’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program

Will begin assisting individuals and families with annual incomes up to \$49,000 by offering free tax preparation and filing. IRS-certified VITA volunteers will work with individuals and families to prepare Federal and MA State tax forms and then submit tax forms through electronic filing. For more information and to make an appointment to have your taxes prepared and filed **at no cost**, call MOC’s Division of Housing & Community Services at (978) 343-5706



State Representative

Dennis A. Rosa

4th Worcester District

24 Church Street, Room 27

Leominster, MA 01453

(978) 534-6946 District Office

Website: dennisrosa.com



*Commonwealth of
Massachusetts*

City of Leominster

Fourth Worcester District

HELPING HANDS



**A resource guide
for those in need**

*Compiled by Denise M. Andrews,
Legislative Aide to*

State Representative Dennis A. Rosa

This guide was developed to help you access resources that are available to assist you should you be at risk of becoming homeless or are homeless.

2nd Printing, January 2012



SERVICES FOR FAMILIES

Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)

Division of Housing Stabilization

Worcester Office (508) 767-3100

Emergency shelter assistance for eligible families.

Our Father's House, Inc.

Transitions at Devens

20-unit emergency family shelter funded by DHCD. Closed referral by DHCD. See above

Montachusett Interfaith Hospitality Network

196 Mechanic Street, Rear; Leominster

(978) 840-9500

A private nonprofit transitional housing program providing eight temporary (community family units) to homeless families in crisis. They are supported by volunteers from a coalition of local congregations. Providing meals, housing, case management, training, employment and housing search and other necessary supports.

Montachusett Opportunity Council

Housing and Community Services Division

9 Prichard Street, Fitchburg (978) 343-5706

Prevention activities focus on keeping families who are currently housed but at-risk for becoming homeless in existing housing. Prevention activities will include: Emergency rent and vendor payments; maximizing benefit enrollment financial education and counseling; and landlord-tenant mediation and referrals to other programs, such as Head Start. Specialized assistance for clients living in subsidized housing is offered. Additional homeless services are provided to eligible clients.

North Central MA Neighborworks Homeownership

Center, 470 Main Street, Fitchburg (888) 978-6261

Provides any homeownership services for those seeking to buy a home, maintain a home or keep a home. The Center provides particular services to those afraid of becoming homeless because of foreclosure.

SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS

Our Father's House, Inc.

Emergency Shelter

53-55 Lunenburg Street, Fitchburg (978) 345-3050

A dry shelter that provides meals, shelter, housing search, case management and advocacy services in the spirit of hospitality to 20 homeless men and 8 women. Length of stay between 1 to 90 days and determined on an individual basis.

4 Leighton Street, Fitchburg (978) 345-2256

Offers permanent housing program for homeless men in recovery. Case management is provided. Must have a minimum 30 days sobriety and a source of income. Must attend AA meetings and a willingness to share in house chores.

76 Mechanic Street, Fitchburg (Elizabeth House)

(978) 343-5720

Transitional housing program for homeless women in recovery from chemical addictions. Case management is provided with individualized service plans. Length of stay determined on a case by case basis, although could be up to 1 year. Residents pay 35% of their income for program fee, attend daily AA meetings and share the cooking, shopping and budgeting for the meals residents share each week.

Hero Homestead

25 Grove Avenue, Leominster (978) 840-6693

A fifteen bed home for elderly veterans.

Armistice Homestead

16 Pearl Street, Leominster (978) 466-7778

A fifteen bed home for veterans with emotional or substance abuse problems.

Both dedicated to providing our veterans (men and women) with many services in an environment that is safe, affordable and supportive.

For more information/admission to either program

Contact Brenda Brousseau (978) 353-0234

HEALTH SERVICES

Community Health Connections—Leominster Center

14 Manning Avenue, Leominster (978) 847-0110

Offers free or by income healthcare, dental care and mental health services.

SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

Horizons for Homeless Children

17 Orchard Street, Leominster (508)755-2615

Website and volunteer inquiries:

www.horizonsforhomelesschildren.org

A volunteer-driven organization dedicated exclusively to improving the lives of homeless children and their families. Provides nurturing, stimulation opportunities for early education and play, and connects their parents with the tools and resources needed to end the cycle of homelessness and achieve self-sufficiency.



FOOD RESOURCES/ NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

Catholic Charities (978) 840-0696

196 Mechanic Street, Leominster

Distribution: Monday -Friday, 8:30 AM -5:00 PM

Alternate appointments based on needs assessment

First Baptist Church (978) 537-2685

Community Food Cupboard

23 West Street, Leominster

Distribution: 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 9:00 -11:00AM

In an emergency will open any time day or night

Ginny's Helping Hand (978) 537-1387

52 Mechanic Street, Leominster

Distribution: Tuesday-Saturday, 11:00 AM-2:00PM

Leominster United Methodist Church

Ruth's Harvest Pantry - Serving Leominster

77 Hall Street, Leominster (978) 537-1356

Distribution: 3rd Thursday, 6:00 - 8:00 PM

4th Saturday, 8:00 - 10:00 AM

Spanish American Center (978) 534-3145

112 Spruce Street, Leominster

Distribution: Monday thru Friday (Food Pantry)

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Advocacy&Referral: Mon.-Fri., 8:30 AM-4:30 PM

Saint Vincent de Paul Society – St. Leo Parish

108 Main Street, Leominster (978) 537-7257

Distribution: Monday, 6:00-7:00 PM; Wednesday,

4:00 - 5:00 PM. (Please call between 10:00 AM &

2:00 PM to register.)

Salvation Army Corps & Community Center

739 Water Street, Fitchburg (978) 342-3300

Distribution by appointment only. Please call for further information.