



Homes 4 the Homeless

Transcending Boundaries~Transforming Lives

Dial 211 for Help!

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Being unhoused can be a challenging and overwhelming experience. From finding shelter to accessing basic needs like food and healthcare, there are too many barriers to overcome. However, there is hope. One valuable resource available to those in need is 211 Information Services.

In 2000, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) mandated the creation of 211 Information Services to provide non-emergency community information and referral (I&R) services to the public. It aims to connect individuals with the necessary resources to address their needs. The service is free and in several languages by phone and online.

The people who answer the phone are knowledgeable about all of the critical services related to health care, paying bills, housing, homeless services, crisis services, income and expenses, transportation, mental health care, substance abuse, children and family, youth, seniors, education, legal assistance, and post-incarceration reentry service. They can help you navigate the complex process of accessing your needed resources.

If you need help figuring out where to start, calling 211 can be a significant first step. The person on the phone will talk you through what is required if you qualify and how to proceed. They will follow up with you, even months later. It could be a different person calling to check in and ensure you have everything you need. These programs are here to help, which is their mission: to help people through tough times.

Now it's time to apply for benefits. The following is a list of resources to help you apply for benefits in California:

- [Covered California - Find ACA health insurance that's right for you.](#)
- [Online Applications for CalWORKs, CalFresh, and Medi-Cal](#)
- [Women, Infants, and Children \(WIC\)](#)
- [Head Start](#)
- [School Meals](#)



- [Children's Medicaid \(CHIP\)](#)
- [Home Energy Assistance \(HEAP\)](#)
- [Low-Cost Phone Plans \(Lifeline\)](#)
- [GetCalFresh.org](#)
- [CalSavers – retirement savings for all Californians](#)
- [High-Speed Internet Options](#)
- [Can I get help paying my phone bill? \(Lifeline\)](#)

The process of applying for benefits can be confusing and intimidating. However, it is essential to take advantage of the programs that are available to you. The 211 services can help you navigate the application process and provide the necessary information to complete your application successfully.

It is important to remember that you are not alone. Many individuals have faced similar challenges and have found a way to overcome them. With the help of 211 Information Services, you can access the resources you need to get back on your feet.

In addition to the services provided by 211, other resources are available to those experiencing homelessness. Local shelters and food banks can provide temporary housing and food assistance. Support groups and counseling services can offer emotional support and guidance. These resources, combined with the information provided by 211, can help you rebuild your life and move towards a brighter future.

In conclusion, if you are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of becoming homeless, 211 Information Services can be a valuable resource. The knowledgeable and compassionate individuals who answer the phone can help you access the necessary resources to address your needs. Remember, you are not alone, and there is hope. With the proper support, you can overcome your challenges and rebuild your life.