

# PORTLAND HOUSING AUTHORITY



## MARCH 2026 / MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### EVENT CALENDAR

3/16/2026– PHA BOARD MEETING  
Location: Chatham Court  
Community room.  
Regular Meeting at 3:30pm

3/17/2026– ST. PATRICK'S DAY  
3/20/2026– FIRST DAY OF SPRING

### MAIN OFFICE

**Call Before Visiting: 860-342-1688**

Monday-Thursday: 8:30am-4:30pm  
& Friday: 8:30am-1:30pm

- **Allen H.** Ext. 111 E.D.  
[Aharrison@portlandha.org](mailto:Aharrison@portlandha.org)
- **Carol D.** Ext. 110 Deputy Director  
[Cdiaz@portlandha.org](mailto:Cdiaz@portlandha.org)
- **Susan N.** Ext. 113 Coordinator  
[Snellis@portlandha.org](mailto:Snellis@portlandha.org)
- **Waleska M.** Ext. 115 Office Asst.  
[Wmiranda@portlandha.org](mailto:Wmiranda@portlandha.org)
- **Dan R.** Ext. 112 Staff Accountant  
[Drafaniello@portlandha.org](mailto:Drafaniello@portlandha.org)
- **Juliano B.**  
Ext. 114 Maintenance Staff-  
**for emergencies only # 860-519-3251**



## NEWS FOR ALL RESIDENTS

**As the days grow longer and signs of spring appear, No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn. March is the perfect time to start again.**

Extreme weather conditions and temperatures is not an excuse to smoke indoors. The PHA enforces a strict no-smoking policy. Several individuals have already received charges, lease-violation notices, and are facing legal consequences as a result. Smoking indoors creates a serious fire hazard and puts everyone in the building at risk.

Text messages from the PHA will be sent from the following number: **860-222-7286**.

It is very important that you do **not** block messages from this number. We use text messages to keep you informed about important updates such as contractor work on the property, water or heat shutoffs, snow removal, community activities, and reminders about important housing-related deadlines.

Text messaging is the fastest way for us the PHA to reach everyone at once. If needed, you can mute text message notifications in your phone settings; however, we kindly ask that you do not opt out of receiving messages altogether.

### TO Opt Back In After Opting Out:

If someone has previously opted out but wants to rejoin, they can text 'UNSTOP' to **860-222-7286** to your text number to get back on our list.

**YOU MAY ALSO WISH TO VISIT CONNECTICUT HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM AT [CTHCVP.ORG](http://CTHCVP.ORG) TO EXPLORE OTHER AVAILABLE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE.**

Housing Choice Voucher Program    Subscribe    Unsubscribe    Housing Authority Login

Welcome to the newly launched CT Housing Choice Voucher website. To stay updated with email alerts for new listings, please [click here to subscribe](#).

Below are announcements for currently open Section 8 voucher waiting lists for the state of Connecticut.

Location: Naugatuck    [View English](#) [Spanish](#)  
Posted by: Naugatuck Housing Authority  
Closing Date: 03/10/2026

Location: Naugatuck    [View English](#) [Spanish](#)  
Posted by: Naugatuck Housing Authority  
Closing Date: 03/10/2026

### Already getting benefits or services?



**Manage all your DSS benefits in one place with MyDSS**

- Go to MyDSS, a mobile-friendly way to reach DSS anywhere, anytime, on any device!
- Check your benefit status or EBT balance in real-time.
  - Get a budget sheet or proof of benefits letter.
  - Report changes, renew your benefits, or upload documents.

[Go to MyDSS >](#)



# Connecticut Student Loan Reimbursement Program



As of Jan. 1, 2025, Connecticut residents who volunteer in their communities may be eligible for up to \$20,000 in student loan reimbursements through the state's Student Loan Reimbursement Program.

The following information is excerpted from the Connecticut Department of Higher Education Student Loan Reimbursement program webpage: <https://www.ohe.ct.gov/Docs/SLRPInformation2025.pdf>

## What is the Connecticut Student Loan Reimbursement Program?

The program is a \$6 million initiative aimed at providing financial relief to Connecticut residents burdened with student loan debt. Applicants will be awarded on a first-come first-serve basis and receive up to \$5,000 a year with a \$20,000 cap over four years. The Connecticut General Assembly adopted the program in 2024, as an outgrowth of Public Act. No 24-81, which allocates Federal American Rescue Plan funds for education and human services purposes.

## Who is Eligible?

Applicants to the program must:

- Applicants must be current Connecticut residents and have lived in the state for a minimum of five consecutive years immediately prior to the date on their application. Applicants must have an outstanding student loan balance, and have paid toward a federal direct loan, federal direct PLUS loan, federal Perkins loan, CHESLA loan or other state-sponsored student loan for the year prior to applying.
- Applicants must have graduated from a Connecticut public or private college or university with a degree or have earned an occupation/professional license or certificate from an accredited, non-degree granting program or had withdrawn due to hardship.
- Applicants must have a Connecticut adjusted gross income of not more than \$125,000 for single applicants, or \$175,000 for married applicants.
- Applicants must have volunteered for at least 50 hours after January 1, 2024. These hours must be completed at a CT Non-Profit Organization exempt from Federal taxation (Section 501(c)(3), in municipal government, or through military service. Proof of volunteer service documentation must be notarized.
- Please see website for more information and FAQ's.

## Application Process

Applicants may begin their application by navigating to the CT Scholars portal <https://ctscholars.guarantorsolutions.com/StudentPortal/SignUp> where they will be instructed to create an account, complete an application and upload required documents for acceptance consideration.

A summary of documents needed to verify eligibility is available here: <https://ohe.ct.gov/docs/SLRPWhatYouWillNeedtoApply.pdf>. Applications are not considered ready for approval until all documents have been submitted. Questions about the program may be emailed to [ohe.slrp@ct.gov](mailto:ohe.slrp@ct.gov)



## Professional Training & Development Program

These programs/classes are **FREE** to the public and are designed to provide individuals with the necessary skills to compete in today's demanding workforce and to increase productivity in the workplace.

[Learn More](#)

**VISIT MIDDLESEXCHAMBER.Com for more information**

## Senior Resources and Services

**Food Bank:** Monday & Thursday 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM (860)-342-6795.

**Mobil Food Share Truck:** Every Other Monday. Advertised in the Rivereast. Weather & Holidays impact Food Share. Only Call Food Bank and Not the Senior Center. 860 342 6795.



## Congregate Meals provided by The Kitchen at Futures

Congregate meals are offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:00 pm. Individuals interested are asked to complete a Form prior to attending, and senior services in the town of Portland need to know by 12:00 pm the day before if you plan to join. There is a suggested donation of \$3.00 per meal.

The Futures program prepares the meals, which are then delivered by individuals with disabilities working alongside their case workers. In addition, transition students participate in the process, gaining valuable hands-on job experience and workplace skills.

This collaborative program promotes inclusion, builds practical skills, and fosters meaningful connections within the community, creating a supportive and engaging experience for everyone involved.

## Transportation Services:

**Dial-A-Ride:** (860) 347-3313, 48 hours advance notice required. Call to register & for free info.

### A GOOD BACKUP PLAN!

**Portland Senior Van:** (860) 342-6761, Please give at least a **2 week notice**. Fee: \$5.00 per passenger.

