



Poverty Times

Welfare Rights Union

The Welfare Rights Union at EMU welcomes you, and wants you to know that you're not the only one struggling to survive. Our organization, with the help of Student Government and the Office of Campus Life, provides information to help you make it through school without starving. We partner with Students with Children to provide programming, and even share office space. Our office is located at 226A King Hall. Our office hours for the winter semester are; Monday 8:00- 3:00 Tuesday 12:45-2:45 Wednesday 8:00-3:00 Thursday 12:45-2:45 Friday 8:00-12:30. Come by with your social service questions. We created a "NO COST, LOW COST SURVIVAL GUIDE" which has lots of referral information on medical care, housing, and utility assistance, etc.

We encourage all students of Eastern Michigan University and individuals in the neighboring communities whom think they may qualify for assistance with food, legal aid, medical coverage, utility assistance etc. Throughout the semester the Welfare Rights Union investigates current issues that affect basic human rights and civil liberties. Students and members of the community who would like to join our information based cause, should stop by our office and inquire. The WRU office on campus in King Hall is stocked with pamphlets and useful information.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

Get your tax dollars back...

DID YOU KNOW?

- Students with work study (and no other job) are categorically eligible for Food Stamps (Bridge Card)
- Your work study paycheck is not “countable income” and you will get full food stamp benefits
- Not all student loans and financial aid “countable income”
- You can deduct living expenses from those loans that are “countable”
- You may be eligible for State Emergency Relief (SER) if you have a utility shut-off notice, as long as you’ve been making minimum payments
- There is free food available from food distributors throughout the community
- There is free to low cost medical and dental care available

So if the government is taking your taxes, and making it difficult to survive, get some of your taxes back.

If you think you’ve wrongly denied benefits, or have an eviction notice call:

Legal Services 734.665.6181

Washtenaw County Family Independence Agency (FIA) 734.481.2000

Low Cost, No Cost Survival 101

- FRIENDS IN DEED 734.484.4357 Emergency financial assistance for basic needs. Help with household and car repair, chores, transportation, and moving. Information and referrals for other services.
- THE CORNER HEALTH CLINIC 734.484.3600 Medical care for teens to 21 years old; birth control, pregnancy test, HIV/STD tests and care, counseling, WIC, physicals, immunizations
- HIV/AIDS RESOURCE CENTER (HARC) 1.800.578.2300
- HOPE CENTER 734.484.2989 for free or low cost medical and dental care. Food bank, laundering cloths prg.
- PLANNED PARENTHOOD 734.973.0155 or 734.485.0144 Sliding scale for birth control, and most women’s health services
- Mi CHILD 1.888.988.6300 Provides health insurance to pregnant women and to children not Medicaid eligible

- WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Program, 734.544.6800
Washtenaw County Public Health WIC coupons available to buy food for low- and moderate-income Michigan parents and their children.

- SALVATION ARMY 734.668.8353 food, financial assistance, client advocacy; low-cost, short-term counseling.
- COMMUNITY FOOD PROGRAM Bryant Community Center 734.994.2722 Distributes free food to low income residents, produce via Food Gathers, bring proof of address, picture ID and proof of income
- CONOVER FOOD PANTRY HIV/AIDS resource cntr. 1.800.578.3300 3050 Clark rd. Supplementary food for people living with HIV/AIDS walk-ins welcome
- EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 734.662.3128 Non perishable food available recipients avail two times per month
- CLOTHES CLOSET free children's clothing of all sizes Thurston Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC) 734-961-6462 Mon-Thursdays; you may come each day to get free clothing and items



EXPOSING DHS:

REVISED LIMITS & ALLOWANCES

As many are aware, the U.S government, through the Department of Human Services (DHS) (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency (FIA), provides medical

insurance programs to low-income/poverty level persons and families. These medical insurance programs include; Medicaid, Adult Medical Program, AdCare, Healthy Kids, MICHild, and Plan First! As of recently, these programs have undergone significant changes that has affected the limits and allowances of the assistance they provide for those in need.

DHS revealed the new income limits for the Adult Medical Program, the Medicare Savings Programs, as well as other full coverage Medicaid programs in the Program Policy Bulletin 2007-001 (PPB 2007-001). More detailed information is available online at <http://www.mfia.state.mi.us/olmweb/ex/htm> or by using the “Quick Link” at www.mplp.org.

Clients for DHS and advocates for welfare/human rights are encouraged to be on alert for those people whose income is close to the new low-income requirements, but are negatively affected by the revised limits and allowances, such as forced payment for a high deductible for Medicaid, case termination, and denial of government assistance. This alert is specifically important during the months of February and March of 2007.

For legal assistance, please visit www.MichiganLegalAid.org or call the toll free lawyer referral number, (800)968-0738.

For more information, please visit or contact:

Center for Civil Justice
320 S. Washington, 2nd Floor
Saginaw, MI 48607
Phone: {989} 755-3120, {800} 724-7441
Fax: {998} 755- 3558
Email: info@ccj-mi.org

Michigan Poverty Law Program
611 Church Street, Suite 4A
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Phone: {734} 998-6100
Fax: {734} 998-9125