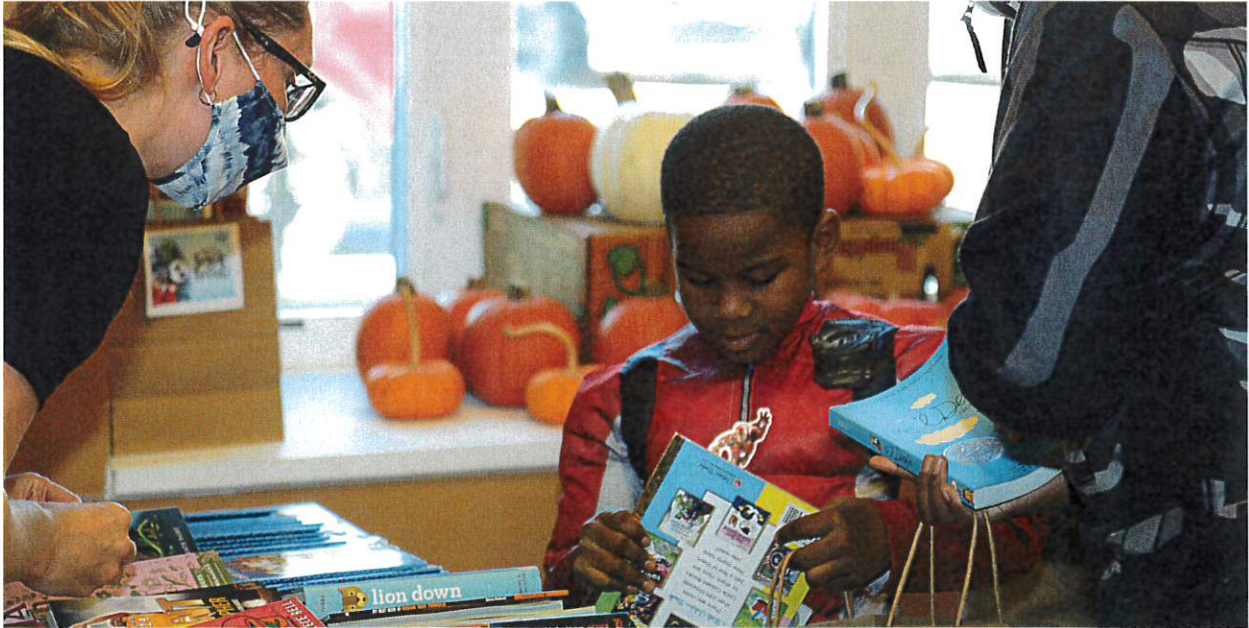


February 2022, Vol 1

# FEP BUZZ

[www.https://www.emich.edu/engage/community/family-empowerment-program/](https://www.emich.edu/engage/community/family-empowerment-program/)



## Thank you!

Many of the events and programming available through the Family Empowerment Program (FEP) is only made possible with the help of community members and partnership programs. Our staff wants to take the time to thank all those that assisted programming through donations, time, resources, and gifts of all kinds. Through your donations we have been able to accomplish putting books in the hands of our residents, providing gifts for holiday celebrations and continue working towards building a healthier community. You truly make the difference for us, and we are extremely grateful!

FEP does continue to take donations on a year round basis at our New Parkridge location in the Amos Washington Building. We accept many different kinds of donations. If you have a questions or concerns about possible donations or needed items, feel free to contact Myra at [mcochr10@emich.edu](mailto:mcochr10@emich.edu) or call at 734.645.1851.



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## Family Empowerment Program (FEP) Services:

Please call the FEP staff member from your office if you need assistance.

**Director:** Mark Hammond (734) 787-0290

**Hamilton Crossing:** Lamar Thomas (734) 787-2609

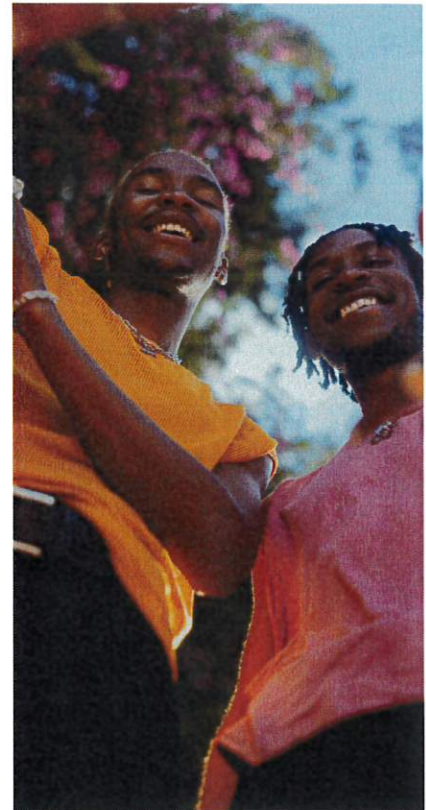
**Sauk Trail Pointe:** Sergio Hernandez (734) 757-5962

**Hollow Creek/Towner/Scattered Sites:** Yvette Pruitt (734) 787-0606

**New Parkridge:** Christa Hughbanks (734) 787-2412

**Permanent Supportive Housing:** Melinda Miller (734) 787-0239

**Education and Wellness Coordinator:** Myra Cochran (734) 645-1851




Questions?  
Suggestions? Please  
email Zac Fosler  
zfosler@ypsilantihc.org  
Or call (734) 482-4300

Zac Fosler, Executive  
Director/CEO of YHC

### Ypsilanti Housing Commission:

601 Armstrong Dr. Ypsilanti, MI 48197  
Phone: 734-482-4300

**Family Empowerment Program:**  
(734) 340-2411

**Hamilton Crossing: (144 Units)**  
596 S. Hamilton Street  
(734)-484-1706

**Hollow Creek: (24 Units)**  
130 S. Grove  
(734) 221-5499

**New Parkridge: (86 Units)**  
831 Hilyard Robinson Way  
(734) 961-7453

**Sauk Trail Pointe: (36 Units)**  
928 W. Michigan Ave.  
(734) 547-5117

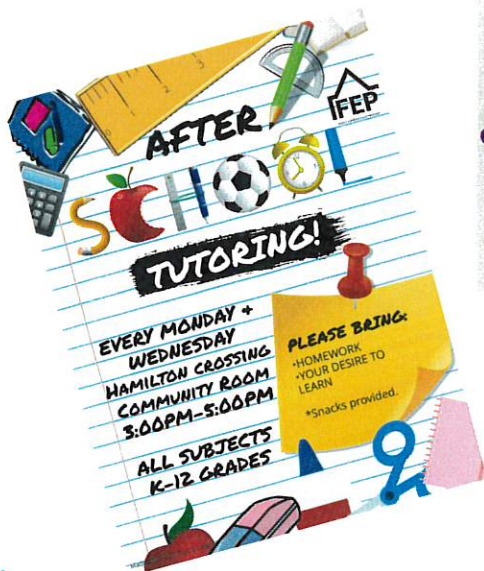
**Debra Strong Housing Scattered Sites and Towner: (29 Units) & Towner (23 Units)**

**Great Lakes Security Dispatch: (844) 475-2537**



# February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <b>BLACK HISTORY MONTH</b>	<b>1</b> Hollow Creek Pantry 2-4pm GED Class 4-6pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> GED Class 4-6pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Hamilton Crossing Tutoring 3-5pm	<b>8</b> Towner Pantry 2-4pm Sauk Trail Tutoring 3-5pm GED Class 4-6pm	<b>9</b> Hamilton Crossing Tutoring 3-5pm	<b>10</b> Sauk Trail Tutoring 3-5pm GED Class 4-6pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 	<b>14</b> Sauk Trail Pantry 12-3pm Hamilton Crossing Tutoring 3-5pm <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i>	<b>15</b> Sauk Trail Tutoring 3-5pm GED Class 4-6pm	<b>16</b> Hamilton Crossing Tutoring 3-5pm	<b>17</b> Sauk Trail Tutoring 3-5pm GED Class 4-6pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Hamilton Crossing Tutoring 3-5pm	<b>22</b> Sauk Trail Tutoring 3-5pm GED Class 4-6pm	<b>23</b> Hamilton Crossing Tutoring 3-5pm	<b>24</b> Sauk Trail Tutoring 3-5pm GED Class 4-6pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Hamilton Crossing Tutoring 3-5pm					<b>BLACK HISTORY MONTH</b>

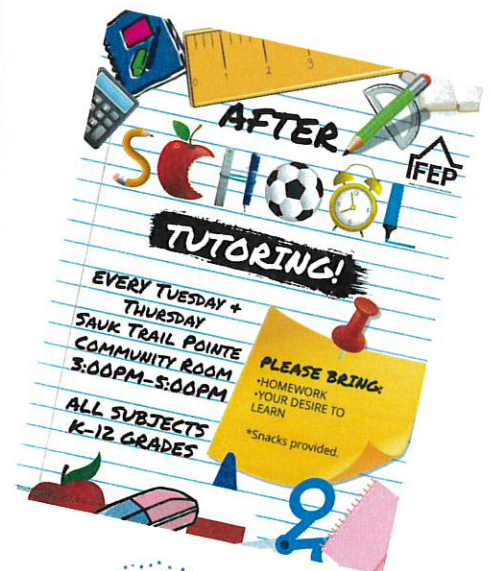


**AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING!**

EVERY MONDAY + WEDNESDAY  
HAMILTON CROSSING COMMUNITY ROOM  
3:00PM-5:00PM  
ALL SUBJECTS K-12 GRADES

**PLEASE BRING:**  
• HOMEWORK  
• YOUR DESIRE TO LEARN  
\*Snacks provided.

**Adult: GED and High School Completion Classes** offered every Tuesday and Thursday at our New Parkridge site in the Amos Washington Building.

**AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING!**

EVERY TUESDAY + THURSDAY  
SAUK TRAIL POINTE COMMUNITY ROOM  
3:00PM-5:00PM  
ALL SUBJECTS K-12 GRADES

**PLEASE BRING:**  
• HOMEWORK  
• YOUR DESIRE TO LEARN  
\*Snacks provided.



## What is the Stay Well program?

The Stay Well program uses federal and state disaster funds to provide mental health support services to Michigan residents who are understandably struggling to cope with emotional distress from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The program is managed by an emergency behavioral health task force within the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and runs through September 30, 2022.

### Two-pronged approach

1. To help all Michigan residents, the grant team launched the Stay Well counseling line. Counseling is accessed by dialing Michigan's COVID-19 information hotline **(1-888-535-6136)** and pressing "8." It's free, confidential, and available 24/7/365. Calls are answered by trained crisis counselors who provide psychoeducational and emotional support, as well as connection to community resources.
2. To help Michigan's hardest-hit residents, the grant team hired, and trained, Outreach Specialists assigned to 10 different vulnerable population groups in the state:
  - Seniors and older adults
  - Homeless individuals
  - Unemployed residents
  - Healthcare providers and first responders
    - Direct Care Workers
  - School teachers and staff
  - Children and families
  - People experiencing racial/ethnic health disparities
  - Immigrants and limited-English-speaking residents
  - People with Substance Use Disorder
  - People with intellectual and developmental disabilities

Because Outreach Specialists cannot perform their work in person during the pandemic, they use a variety of other methods to reach the vulnerable groups. They partner with community-based organizations, houses of worship, and COVID testing sites; they create, market, and host psychoeducational webinars; they provide online and printed materials with helpful tips for staying mentally well; and they offer virtual group counseling/support groups upon request.

### The program's three main goals

1. Validate, normalize, and humanize responses to the COVID pandemic (i.e., you are experiencing a normal response to an abnormal situation).
2. Encourage Michiganders to utilize Stay Well counseling services; either through one-on-one interaction over the phone, or by joining a support groups and talking with peers, to relieve continued distress.
3. Provide psychoeducation through a variety of media to promote good mental health practices.

[Michigan.gov/StayWell](https://Michigan.gov/StayWell)

**Stay Well Counseling Line (1-888-535-6136)**



FAMILY EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

# FOOD PANTRY

Hollow Creek Pantry: February 1, 2022 (Tuesday)  
2:00pm-4:00pm

Towner Pantry: February 8, 2022 (Tuesday)  
2:30pm-4:00pm

Sauk Trail Pointe Pantry: February 14, 2022 (Monday)  
12:00pm-3:00pm

## Refer A Friend

Questions contact: Yvette Pruitt  
Phone: 734.787.0606

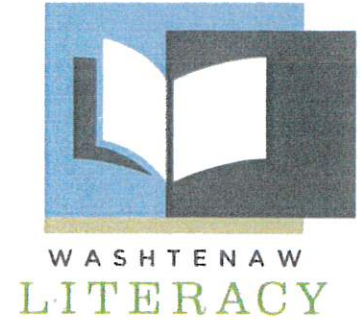
Open to all residents and the public.



# Washtenaw Literacy

Your goals.

Your schedule.



**Free Tutoring for Adults**  
**Reading ♦ Writing ♦ Math ♦ Learn English**

Contact us! We can help!

What are your goals?

A tutor will help you work on your goals, at your pace, and on your schedule.

- GED
- ESL
- Computer Skills
- Work and Job Skills
- Personal Finance Skills
- Much more! You name the goal!

To sign up for a tutor, contact Kim:

Call 734-291-0049 or email [kim@washtenawliteracy.org](mailto:kim@washtenawliteracy.org)

# FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS

Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, Ypsilanti Township,  
Chelsea, Dexter, Manchester, Milan,  
Saline, Whitmore Lake.

Need food? Food Gatherers has a network of food pantries and meal programs that are ready to help!

- ✓ Items available include fresh produce, dairy, meat, and pantry staples like canned fruits and vegetables, pasta, peanut butter, and more!
- ✓ Available to anyone in need, no proof of need required.
- ✓ Low-contact, “grab and go” distributions.
- ✓ This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



## WE'RE HERE TO HELP

### Quick Links

Food Gatherers' website has updated information on food distributions, schools meals, and SNAP benefits.

- ➔ Need food map and list:  
[www.foodgatherers.org/findfood](http://www.foodgatherers.org/findfood)
- ➔ School meal updates:  
[www.foodgatherers.org/covid19](http://www.foodgatherers.org/covid19)
- ➔ SNAP updates:  
[www.foodgatherers.org/snap](http://www.foodgatherers.org/snap)

### Questions?

Are you homebound and need grocery delivery? Don't know which program is best for you? Call Food Gatherers to find which of our partner programs can best serve you: 734-761-2796

For help outside Washtenaw County, call 2-1-1.

For help with new or current SNAP (food stamp) cases, call the Food Bank Council of Michigan helpline: 1-888-544-8773.

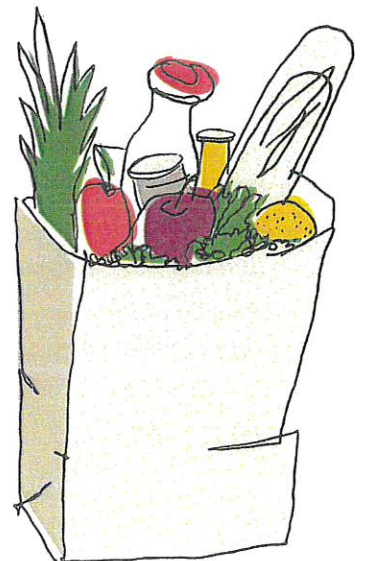


Scan this QR code to visit Food Gatherers' website!



How to scan a QR code:

1. Go to your phone's camera
2. Point it at the QR code
3. Click on the link that appears





# ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR CERA FUNDS HAVE CHANGED!



PLEASE SEE BELOW FOR UPDATED ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR RENTAL ASSISTANCE!



APPLY ONLINE



Visit [ceraapp.michigan.gov](https://ceraapp.michigan.gov) to start your online application

or COMPLETE A PAPER APP



Use the QR Code above or call 734-961-1999 to get a paper application and mail it to HAWC @ 100 Arbana Drive Ann Arbor, MI 48103

**Have as many of these documents as possible ready:**



Michigan State ID\*



2020 or 2021 Tax Return



Paystubs/proof of income for the last 2 weeks



Recent Bank Statement



Copy of lease and information about owed rent

*Please note: All cases approved on or after January 1, 2022 must have rental arrears (money owed) dating between March 13, 2020 and before December 20, 2021 in order to be eligible for assistance.*

*\*A Michigan State ID is now required to apply for CERA per the new eligibility requirements by the State of Michigan. Please visit SOS to obtain a state ID - proof of temporary state ID will also be accepted.*

Questions for Washtenaw CERA? We're here to help!  
Submit your questions at [bit.ly/CERA-Questions](https://bit.ly/CERA-Questions)

**IF YOU ARE NO LONGER ELIGIBLE FOR CERA, PLEASE CONTACT HAWC OR DHHS FOR ASSISTANCE.**

Visit [michiganlegalhelp.org](https://michiganlegalhelp.org) or call 734-665-6181 for resources to help you if you have any legal questions or concerns.

Translation services are available with HAWC.



**Comcast**  
Internet Essentials



## FREE INTERNET:

- No Contract
- No Credit Check
- No Installation Fee
- In Home WI-FI
- 25 Mbps
- Free for 6 months



## MUST:

- Provide Social Security Number or other Government Issued ID (Washtenaw County ID).
- Be 18+ years of age and available to be home during equipment drop off. (Self Installation Kit, No Contact Necessary).
- Check box for the National School Lunch Program on the application.
- Be a resident of the Ypsilanti Housing Commission.

**Need help or have questions: Contact**

**Myra at 734.645.1851**



# IT'S YOUR MONEY!

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)  
provides extra money to working families.



Call **211** and ask to be connected to a **VITA** Volunteer  
<http://bit.ly/earnedincometax>

**You work hard  
for your family.**

**💰 Did you know? 💰**

You can get up to \$6600  
if you have children and  
worked last year

Even if you have no other  
filing requirements or owe no  
tax, you can still get EITC!

**You earned  
this credit.**

Taxes are due in April, but you can file late or amend your taxes and get your credit!

## How do I get EITC?

Answer questions using the EITC Assistant on [getyourrefund.org](http://getyourrefund.org)

A VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) volunteer can help you file for EITC for free!



# YOU COULD BE ENTITLED TO MORE MONEY WITH THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

## Frequently Asked Questions

**According to the IRS, all people eligible for EITC have seven things in common:**

- Have earned income.
- Have a valid Social Security number.
- Do not file as a married filing separately.
- Generally, are not an undocumented person.
- Are not a qualifying child of another person.
- Are not filing Form 2555 or Form 2555-EZ. (7) Have limited investment income.

### Does my income qualify?

You must have income from your employer or someone else, work for yourself, a business or farm you own or operate, or some disability plan to qualify.

**You also have to meet income limits to qualify for the EITC.** Those limits depend on your filing status and how many qualifying children under age 19 or full-time students and under age 24 you have. **Here are 2021's EITC income limits:**

	Filing Status	Income Limit if No Children	Income Limit if 1 Child	Income Limit if 2 Children	Income Limit if 3+ Children
<b>Income Qualifications For EITC</b>	Single, head of household, or widowed	\$15,980	\$42,158	\$47,915	\$51,464
	Married, joint	\$21,920	\$48,108	\$53,865	\$57,414

DATA SOURCE: IRS. NOTE: THE EITC IS NOT AVAILABLE TO THOSE WHO ARE MARRIED AND FILE SEPARATELY.

### Does my child qualify?

- Your child must have the same main home as you (or your spouse if you file jointly) in the United States for more than half of the year.
- Your child must be younger than you (or your spouse filing jointly) and must be under age 19 (age 24 if your child is a "full-time student) at the end of the year or is "permanently and totally disabled."
- Your child must not have filed a joint return, or if your child filed a joint return, your child and their spouse filed only to claim a refund of withheld estimated taxes and were not otherwise required to file.
- Your child must be your son, daughter, adopted child, stepchild, "**eligible foster child**," brother, sister, half-brother, half-sister, stepbrother, stepsister, or a descendant of any of them.

### Who is an eligible foster child?

A foster child is considered eligible if they are placed with you by an authorized placement agency or by judgment decree, or other order of any court of competent jurisdiction.

**Use the online EITC Assistant to find out if you're eligible for EITC, available in English and Español.**

[IRS.gov/EITC](https://www.irs.gov/EITC)

