

Critical Support Fund, established by the United Way and Lehigh Valley Community Foundation to address immediate needs in our region. This is an essential effort to support our neighbors during these difficult times, and it will take a truly regional effort to ensure our residents have what they need as the days get shorter and the nights get colder.

With more than 40% of Greater Lehigh Valley residents living paycheck to paycheck and funding pauses to programs like SNAP, food insecurity is rising. Currently, just over **106,000** people receive SNAP benefits in the region. At the same time, many of our region's social service providers are struggling to keep up with the need and have not been able to access funding that typically supports food access programs. The **Critical Support Fund** will provide rapid relief, so nonprofit food providers can keep shelves stocked and distribute food where it is needed most.

How to help

Donors may contribute online at www.unitedwayglv.org/donate (Select “Critical Support Fund”) and on Lehigh Valley Community Foundation’s website by clicking: [Bridge Fund for Critical Support](#). Donations can also be made via mail with checks payable to UWGLV, 1110 American Parkway NE, Suite F-120, Allentown, PA 18109 – attention “Critical Support Fund”, or to Lehigh Valley Community Foundation, 840 W. Hamilton Street, Suite 310, Allentown, PA 18101 – attention “Bridge Fund for Critical Support.”

Food and diaper donations can be directed to the following hubs: Hispanic Center Lehigh Valley, Easton Area Neighborhood Center, and Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank. Priority food items include: canned proteins, cereals, canned fruits and vegetables, rice, pasta and peanut butter.

For more information, contact **Erin Connelly** at United Way at erinco@unitedwayglv.org or **Erika Riddle Petrozelli** at erika@lvcfoundation.org at the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation.

Finding help

To find food and other resources, dial 2-1-1 or 855-567-5341, visit www.pa211.org or text your ZIP code to 898-211. PA 211 is a free, confidential service available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.