

OUR PROGRAMS...

Helping Low-Income Households

♥ Clothing Closet

The Clothing Closet provides free clothing and housewares to eligible households on a monthly basis. Donations of clothing and household items are accepted from community members and passed on to those in need.



♥ Energy Assistance

West Des Moines Human Services is the local Community Action Agency which administers the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to eligible households in our service area. LIHEAP provides a one-time annual credit on an energy bill for eligible households. Applications are taken by outreach staff beginning in October for disabled or elderly households, and November through April for other eligible households.

♥ Holiday Assistance



A variety of programs are available to help alleviate the financial burden of the holiday season for low-income households. These programs include Thanksgiving food baskets, Toyland and Adopt-A-Family.

We also partner with local organizations and other city departments to provide special holiday activities for low-income children.

♥ Program Outreach

Experienced outreach staff help residents in need find solutions to everyday problems and financial emergencies. We also partner with members of the community to offer skill enhancement classes for qualifying residents.



HOW YOU CAN HELP...



Give Today - Donation Guide

WDM Human Services helps people in emergency or crisis situations. The need is great to help struggling families pay the rising costs of utilities, rent, prescriptions, food, gas, personal care items and clothing.

Please consider the following chart as a guide:

- \$25 Provides personal care items for one month per household
- \$50 Pays a water bill to prevent disconnection
- \$100 Provides youth recreational assistance for two children
- \$250 Pays an energy bill to prevent disconnection
- \$500 Provides gasoline vouchers for 33 households
- \$1,000 Provides one month rent for a homeless family

Please make all donations payable to:

West Des Moines Human Services

Mail or deliver to:

West Des Moines Human Services
P.O. Box 65320 - 139 6th Street
West Des Moines, IA 50265-0320

Or donate online at: www.wdmhumanservices.com

Current Needs List

- Personal care items
- Blankets & sheets
- Diapers & wipes
- Bath & hand towels
- Clothing & shoes
- Small household items
- Non-perishable food items
- Gift cards for gas, groceries & clothing

Donations may be dropped off Monday through Friday between 8 am and 4 pm at 139 6th Street in West Des Moines.

Volunteer Needs

Please contact Mindy Hotovec at 222-3663 or Melinda.Hotovec@wdm.iowa.gov for a list of current volunteer opportunities.

West Des Moines Human Services



The Heart of the Community



OUR MISSION...

The mission of West Des Moines Human Services is to provide opportunities for individuals to improve and enhance their quality of life and sense of community through the programs and services available.

139 6th Street ■ P.O. Box 65320
West Des Moines, IA 50265
515-222-3660

www.wdmhumanservices.com

WHO WE ARE...

West Des Moines Human Services has been compassionately helping people in need since 1979. As a department within the City of West Des Moines, we are a non-profit agency that provides necessary assistance to **low-income, elderly and disabled** individuals in our service area. For more than 35 years, we have provided assistance to community members in emergency or crisis situations to ensure their safety and to improve their quality of life.

OUR PROGRAMS...

Preventing Hunger

♥ Food & Personal Care Pantry

West Des Moines Human Services fights hunger each day by making a food pantry available to those in need. Our DMARC pantry serves approximately 80 households per week. Families can receive a four-day supply of nutritionally balanced food once per month at no cost.



♥ Summer Food Service Program

West Des Moines Human Services and the West Des Moines Community School District partner each summer at Legion Park to offer children in our service area access to a free, nutritional lunch during the summer months.



♥ Garden Program

This program encourages households to grow their own food by providing vouchers for seeds and vegetable plants to low-income, disabled or elderly West Des Moines residents.



Supporting Youth Development

♥ Youth Recreation Assistance



This program offers financial assistance to West Des Moines youth who participate in activities offered by the West Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department.

♥ School Supplies

School supplies are provided to low-income students living in West Des Moines through community donations each year. This valuable program helps low-income children start the school year with the supplies they need.



Providing Safe Shelter

♥ Housing Solutions Program

Since May of 2000, West Des Moines Human Services has provided housing for homeless families with minor children. The program helps families break down barriers that have prevented them from maintaining stable housing for their families. The goal for each family is to leave the program with increased skills, income and permanent housing.



♥ Emergency Assistance

Financial assistance is available to eligible West Des Moines residents who are facing an eviction or utility disconnection. Outreach staff members assess the current situation and work to ensure the needs of the household are being met.

Assisting the Elderly & Disabled

♥ Transportation

West Des Moines residents who are elderly, disabled, or low-income can receive free transportation to medical appointments or to the Westside Community Center. With a fleet of four vehicles, three wheelchair accessible buses and one van, we operate Monday through Friday all year. We also provide transportation for recreational outings like the "Senior Dinner Club".



♥ Handyman Program & Senior Assistance



West Des Moines Human Services believes it is important for elderly residents to have the opportunity to remain in their homes for as long as possible. Services available to eligible West Des Moines elderly and disabled residents include a

handyman service which provides mowing, snow removal and minor home repairs. In addition, outreach staff assist elderly residents with energy assistance applications, rent rebate applications and emergency assistance. Food and clothing are also available at our office.

♥ Friendship Connection

(a social club for young adults with special needs)

Friendship Connection provides weekly social and recreational opportunities for young adults with special needs. The group meets at West Des Moines Human Services and other sites throughout the community.

Participants have fun interacting with each other as they bowl, make crafts, exercise, sing and play games!

