



CHIP Clips

Your source of updates, news,
and interesting facts relating to
the Palm Beach County
Community Health
Improvement Plan (CHIP)
November 2020

Palm Beach County Community Services Department Accepting Food, Rental and Utility Assistance Applications

Top 3 Priority Areas for the Palm Beach County CHIP

- Mental and Behavioral Health
- Active Living and Healthy Lifestyles
- Access to Care and Services



Eligible residents who experienced a loss of income as a direct result of COVID-19 and who are at or below 140 percent Area Median Income may apply for rental and utility assistance. Additional eligibility requirements apply, and maximum benefits are as follows:

- Rent up to \$10,000 in arrears beginning in March 2020
- Electric, water and/or gas up to \$1,200 in arrears starting March 2020

Residents may reapply for rental/utility assistance if they are still affected by the pandemic and have not received the maximum benefits listed above.

To apply for food, rental and utility assistance, visit www.rentalassistancepbc.org.

The online portal will remain open until November 6 at midnight.

Did you know?

- Through the EHEAP program, providing emergency electric bill assistance for senior citizens, qualifying households will receive a benefit per season of up to \$750 on a past due bill, to resolve their energy crisis. The benefit amount will depend on total household income.
- Phone number for PBC utilities assistance (electricity, water and gas): 561-355-4792

Opioid overdoses up 62% in Florida: \$5 million pledged

One of our three CHIP priorities is Mental & Behavioral Health, including reducing the rate of drug overdose deaths. A recent [article](#) highlights new federal funding given to Florida to fight addiction. According to Governor DeSantis, opioid overdoses in Florida are up 62% over the last 6 months, compared to last year. To help with the crisis, a pilot program called Support to Communities will provide training to mental health workers on how to identify and respond to people with substance use disorders. The initiative will also prepare individuals in recovery to become peer counselors.

To learn more, please see [here](#)

Did you know?

- Over 300 community members have been trained in Mental Health First Aid through the Palm Beach County Behavioral Health Coalition.
- Over 8,000 pounds of unused and unwanted drugs have been collected each year for the last five years through the Coalition.
- 800,000 community members have been reached with prevention messages and services as of FY 18-19.

SOURCE: [PBCBHC](#)

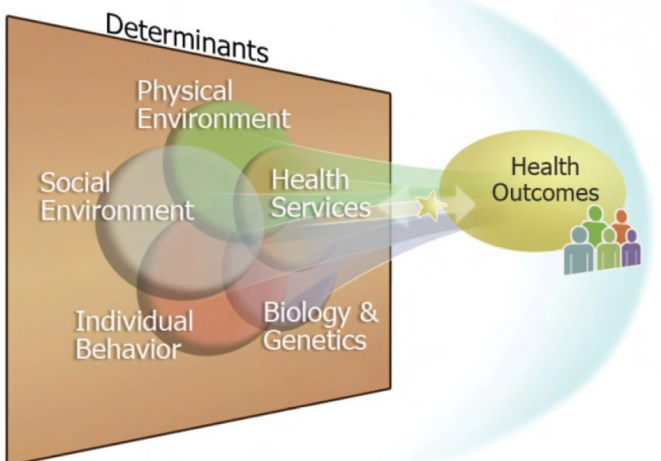
Partner Spotlight: Palm Beach County Behavioral Health Coalition

In support of the Palm Beach County CHIP priority area of Mental and Behavioral Health, the Palm Beach County Behavioral Health Coalition provides many valuable services and programs. The Palm Beach County Behavioral Health Coalition was created to give parents, youth and neighborhoods the tools to continue building a healthier, drug free community. The PBC Behavioral Health Coalition has programs for substance abuse/prevention, HIV prevention, Mental Health First Aid, as well as programs aimed at local teenagers. Over the last 30 years the Palm Beach County Behavioral Health Coalition has worked in conjunction with youth, parents, law enforcement administrators, lawmakers, teachers, business owners, and many other community leaders to change laws, policies, attitudes and behaviors toward underage drinking and the abuse of new and traditional drugs. [For more information](#)

Florida Department of Health Encourages Floridians to Get Flu Shot

Getting the flu shot each year is important, but reducing illness and hospitalization from flu is even more critical this year to protect frontline health care workers and hospital systems who will continue to care for people with COVID-19 and other illnesses. The flu and COVID-19 are respiratory illnesses, but until there is a steady vaccine supply against COVID-19, the way to prevent these two viruses from circulating at the same time is to get your flu vaccine now. [To learn more](#)

Click [here](#) for list of local COVID-19 testing sites



CHIP UPDATE

Issues of CHIP Clips are posted at the [DOH-Palm Beach](#) website.

The next CHIP Advisory Council meeting is scheduled virtually via zoom on December 10th at 11:00 AM. Please attend for community updates and CHIP progress reports.

Thanks also to the Health Council of Southeast Florida, the Health Care District of Palm Beach County, and all of our community partners in implementing our CHIP!

Also, please send Adam your ideas and comments for the newsletter; he's waiting to hear from you!