

Ohio Food, Housing & Internet Resource Guide

For Ohio residents seeking help with food, housing, utilities, or affordable internet

Start here: If you don't know which program you qualify for, call **211** or text **898211**. HUD recommends 211 as a starting point for connecting Ohio residents with local food, housing, utility, and other human-service programs.

FOOD RESOURCES

1. Ohio SNAP / Food Assistance

SNAP (food stamps) helps eligible Ohio households purchase groceries. You can apply online and check eligibility through Ohio's benefits system.

[Apply for Ohio SNAP / Food Assistance](#)

The Ohio Association of Foodbanks also provides help with SNAP applications and can connect people with their regional foodbank.

Ohio SNAP information:

[Ohio SNAP information from USDA](#)

2. Find a Food Pantry

The **Ohio Association of Foodbanks** represents Ohio's 12 regional foodbanks and thousands of local hunger-relief organizations serving all 88 counties.

[Find Ohio foodbanks and local food assistance](#)

You can use the foodbank locator to find the organization serving your county and locate nearby pantries, meal programs, and other food assistance.

3. FreshTrak Food Assistance Locator

FreshTrak can help you find food pantries, free groceries, meals, and other food resources in your area.

[Find food assistance through FreshTrak](#)

4. Ohio Food Assistance Information

Ohio Legal Help provides information about SNAP and other food programs, including eligibility and how to apply.

HOUSING RESOURCES

1. Ohio Housing Assistance

The **Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA)** maintains a statewide housing resource guide covering affordable housing programs and other housing resources.

[Ohio Housing Resource Guide — OHFA](#)

2. Section 8 / Housing Choice Voucher

The **Housing Choice Voucher Program**, commonly called **Section 8**, helps eligible low-income households pay rent in privately owned housing.

[HUD Ohio Housing Resources](#)

HUD explains that applications for Housing Choice Vouchers and public housing are handled through local Public Housing Authorities.

[Find your Ohio Public Housing Authority through HUD](#)

HUD Housing Choice Voucher information:

[HUD Housing Choice Voucher Program](#)

3. Affordable Housing Search

HUD's Ohio resource page can help you find affordable housing, public housing agencies, housing counselors, and homelessness resources.

[HUD Ohio Housing Resources](#)

HUD Resource Locator:

[Search for affordable housing through HUD](#)

Important: HUD notes that its affordable-housing locator does not show current vacancies. Contact the property directly to ask about vacancies, waitlists, and applications.

4. Eviction / Rental Assistance

If you're behind on rent or facing eviction, start with:

[Ohio Legal Help](#)

[HUD Ohio Rent Relief & Eviction Resources](#)

HUD recommends contacting a local **Community Action Agency** and/or a HUD-approved housing counselor for rental and housing assistance.

HUD Housing Counseling:

[Find a HUD-approved housing counselor](#)

5. Homelessness / Emergency Housing

If you are homeless or may lose your housing soon:

Call 211 or text 898211 to be connected with local resources.

[211 Ohio resource information](#)

You can also use HUD's shelter and housing resources:

[HUD Ohio Homelessness Resources](#)

If you are in **immediate physical danger**, call 911.

UTILITY & ENERGY ASSISTANCE

Although not one of the three main categories, utility assistance can be especially important when trying to maintain housing.

Ohio HEAP

The **Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)** helps eligible Ohio households with energy costs.

[Ohio Energy Assistance / HEAP](#)

The Ohio Consumers' Counsel also maintains information about utility assistance, payment plans, and disconnection protections.

[Ohio Utility Assistance Resources](#)

INTERNET & PHONE RESOURCES

1. Lifeline Internet Assistance

Lifeline is a federal program that can reduce the cost of phone or broadband internet service for qualifying low-income households.

Eligible consumers can receive **up to \$9.25 per month** toward phone or internet service; the benefit can be higher for eligible residents of Tribal lands.

You may qualify based on household income or participation in programs such as **SNAP or Medicaid**.

[Apply/check eligibility for Lifeline through USAC](#)

Lifeline eligibility

[Check Lifeline eligibility requirements](#)

Find participating internet providers

[Find Lifeline companies near you](#)

Lifeline uses the federal **National Verifier** to determine eligibility.

2. Ohio Consumer Counsel — Lifeline

The **Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel** provides Ohio-specific information about Lifeline, including income guidelines and participating providers.

[Ohio Lifeline Information — Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel](#)

3. BroadbandOhio

BroadbandOhio is an Ohio Department of Development initiative focused on expanding access to high-speed internet throughout Ohio.

[BroadbandOhio](#)

ONE NUMBER TO REMEMBER: 211

If you aren't sure where to start, **211 is often the easiest first step.**

They can help connect you with local resources for:

- Food and food pantries
- SNAP application assistance
- Emergency housing
- Shelters
- Rent assistance
- Utility assistance
- Transportation
- Employment resources
- Childcare
- Other local social services

Call 211 or **text 898211** in Ohio. HUD specifically recommends this as a starting point for Ohio residents seeking local assistance.

[211 — Find local help](#)

Quick Reference

Need	Best place to start
 Food/SNAP	Ohio Benefits
 Food pantry	Ohio Association of Foodbanks
 Section 8	HUD Ohio Housing Resources
 Affordable housing	HUD Resource Locator
 Eviction/housing crisis	Ohio Legal Help

Need**Best place to start**

Utility help

[Ohio HEAP](#)

Affordable internet

[Lifeline](#)

Affordable phone

[Ohio Lifeline information](#)Don't know where to start **Call 211 / text 898211**

Tip: Have your ZIP code, household size, approximate income, proof of address, and benefit information (such as SNAP/Medicaid documentation) available when applying. Individual programs may require different documents and eligibility criteria.