# **BACK TO SCHOOL TOOL KIT 2025**

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# **FOOD ASSISTANCE**

### **Houston Food Bank**

Operates several programs for those in need of food assistance.

- The Houston Food Bank Client Assistance Program (CAP) provides assistance to people who
  don't have enough money to buy food, and to people who need healthcare for their families
  through SNAP, Medicaid, CHIP, and Women's Health Initiative. In some cases, help is available to
  pay bills through TANF cash benefits.
- In addition to distributing fresh produce and nonperishable items, the Food Bank also distributes hot meals for children prepared in Keegan's Kitchen.
- You can also call the Houston Food Bank Helpline (number below) to find a pantry near you.
- HFB has an app that can locate food assistance within 3 miles radius of where you are located.
   Search Houston Food Bank within the app store to locate it.
- http://www.houstonfoodbank.org/agency-locator
- 832-369-9390

### **Emergency Food Pantry**

- The purpose of the Emergency Food Pantry is to serve working families who can't access their neighborhood pantry.
- Requirements:
  - Photo ID or two other forms of identification
  - Proof of employment paycheck or paystub dated within 30 days of your visit
  - Proof of address document with your name and current address dated within 60 days
- Proof of employment (paycheck or paystub) from an employer dated within 30 days of your visit
- These services can be provided every full 30 days
- 535 Portwall Street, Houston, TX 77029
- More info on specific location: <a href="https://texvet.org/resources/houston-food-bank">https://texvet.org/resources/houston-food-bank</a>
- 832-369-9390 to find a pantry near you.

#### **Your Texas Help**

- This site will assist with food location, rental assistance, etc.
- http://yourtexashelp.org/

### **Gulf Coast Community Association**

- The GSCCSA is a Gold Status Houston Food Bank Partner that serves individuals and families who are in need a 3–5 day supply. Assistance one time per year.
- https://www.gccsa.org/
- 713-393-4700



### **Brighter Bites**

- Brighter Bites is a non-profit initiative bringing fresh produce to families while also providing nutrition education. They are currently working with various Houston area schools and community centers.
- The project provides families with fresh produce (each family is given 50 servings of fruits and vegetables in a recyclable bag each week) with additional nutritional education over a 16-week program.
- Over 50 Houston area locations can be found on the website below.
- http://brighterbites.org/

### 211

- Call 2-1-1 to get information on food banks in your area. This service also assists with finding many other community health and human services.
- Visit their website above to search for food banks by zip code or city.
- You can also visit the 211 website, enter your zip code in the keyword box: https://www.211texas.org/cms/search-food-resources-in-texas
- 877-541-7905

### **WIC Enrollment**

- WIC provides money (in the form of an EBT card) for eligible mothers to purchase approved foods for their infants and/or children.
  - Eligibility: pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women; infants/ children up to 5
  - Requirements: proof of income, identity, and address
  - PWIC participants are scheduled for appointments approximately every 3 months to receive nutrition education and reload their WIC EBT card with food benefits. To begin the application process, call to make an appointment or visit the official website below for more information and instructions.
- https://www.texaswic.org/apply
- 800-942-3678

## **SNAP Enrollment**

- Formerly called Food Stamps, SNAP Food Benefits provides money (in the form of an EBT card) for food to individuals and families in need.
- The amount and duration of money provided depend on your family size and income status.
- Instructions on applying for the SNAP program can be found in the document below, or you can apply online using the link below. Call the Houston Food Bank Hotline if you need assistance applying.
- https://www.yourtexasbenefits.com/ssp/SSPHome/ssphome.jsp
- 832-369-9390 (Houston Food Bank Hotline)



### LIFE Houston – Local Infant Formula for Emergencies

- More locations available --> https://www.lifehouston.org/ourlocations
- St. Austin Center (Main Office)
  - Hours: Monday Friday: 9:30 AM 3:30 PM
  - Requires:
    - 1. Document showing baby's name and birth date
    - 2. Photo ID for parent/caregiver
    - 3. Doctor proof of need for specialized formula
  - 2002 S. Wayside Drive, Suite 113 Houston, TX 7702
  - **1** 713-528-6044
- West End Multi-Service Center
  - Hours: Monday Friday: 9:30 AM 3:30 PM
  - 170 Heights Blvd. Houston, TX 77007
  - **713-864-9993**
- Southwest LIFE/Houston
  - Hours: Monday Friday: 9:00 AM 4:00 PM
  - Client will initially be given enough formula to provide 32 ounces per day for one week
  - 9600 S. Gessner, Building E Houston, TX 77071
  - 713-270-0369

### **Emergency Food Options**

- Hester House: Food pantry once a month for registered clients.
  - Hours: Monday Sunday: 8:00AM 4:00PM
  - Assists with gas and rental need
  - o https://hesterhouse.org
  - o 713-672-2573
- St. John's United Methodist Church: Food and clothing distribution program.
  - o Hours: Wednesdays beginning at 7:00AM, until it is gone.
  - 3rd Saturday of each month beginning at 7:00AM (larger food & supply distribution)
  - o 2019 Crawford Houston, TX 77002
  - o https://www.stjohnsdowntown.org
  - 0 713-659-3237
- House of Amos: Emergency food pantry.
  - Hours: Monday Thursday: 9:00AM 12:00PM; Saturday: 10:00AM 12:00PM
  - o Immunizations occasionally offered as well
  - o 8030 Boone Road Houston, TX 77072
  - o https://houseofamos.org/services
  - o 281-495-9061
- Community Family Center: Offers food pantry and ESL classes.
  - Hours: Monday Friday 8:00AM 5:00PM
  - o 7524 Ave E Houston, 77012



- o www.communityfamilycenters.org
- o 713-923-2316
- Angel Food Ministries: 70-80 host sites in Harris County
  - o https://www.angelfood.org
  - 0 877-366-3646
- Champions Covenant Church: Services families in need of food.
  - o Hours: Monday Friday: 9:00AM 4:00PM
  - Sunday Services: 9:00AM & 11:00AM
  - Friday night children's activities: 6:00PM 11:00PM
  - o Low-cost daycare is available for children ages 6 weeks to kindergarten.
  - o 13111 Bammel N. Houston Road Houston, TX 77066
  - o http://www.championscc.org/
  - o **281-397-7569**

### **Summer Feeding Program**

- The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) has created the Summer Feeding Program which provides low-income children ages 18 and younger with nutritious meals during the summer vacation.
- Visit their website below to find a summer feeding program near you or text FOOD to 304-304
- <a href="https://squaremeals.org/Programs/Summer-Meal-Programs/Summer-Meal-Site-Map">https://squaremeals.org/Programs/Summer-Meal-Programs/Summer-Meal-Programs/Summer-Meal-Site-Map</a>



### **DENTAL ASSISTANCE**

# **Acres Home Health Center Dental Clinic**

- Eligibility: All ages; Medicaid, sliding scale available
- Address: 818 Ringold St, Houston TX 77088 | 281-448-6391
- harrishealth.org/locations-hh/Pages/acres-home-health-center.aspx

# **Aldine Health Center Dental Clinic**

- Eligibility: Adults and children in the Aldin and far-north Houston area; Medicaid, sliding scale
- Address: 4755 Aldine Mail Route Rd, Houston TX 77039 | 281-985-7600
- harrishealth.org/locations-hh/Pages/aldine-health-center.aspx

### **City of Houston Dental Bureau**

- Eligibility: Children with Medicaid, CHIP, Title V, or WIC; pregnant women; uninsured children.
- Locations:
  - Magnolia: 7037 Capitol St, Houston, TX 77011 | 713-928-9578
  - o Northside: 8504 Schuller Rd, Houston, TX 77093 | 713-742-1320 (appointments only)
  - Sharpstown: 6201 Bonhomme Rd, Houston, TX 77036 | 713-780-5680 (Medicaid/CHIP only)
  - Sunnyside: 4605 Wilmington St, Houston, TX 77051 | 713-732-5065
- houstonhealth.org/services/clinical/dental

### **Denver Harbor Family Health Center**

- Eligibility: All ages; accepts Medicaid, CHIP, private insurance; sliding scale available.
- Address: 424 Hahlo St, Houston, TX 77020 | 713-674-3326
- houstonhealth.org/services/clinical/dental

### Eastwood Health Center (El Centro de Corazón)

- Eligibility: All ages; accepts Medicaid, CHIP; sliding scale available.
- Address: 412 Telephone Rd, Houston, TX 77023 | 713-660-1880
- https://www.elcentrodecorazon.org/

### **Good Neighbor Health Care Center**

- Eligibility: Medicaid/CHIP accepted; sliding scale available based on income.
- Address: 190 Heights Blvd, Houston, TX 77007 | 713-529-3260
- freeclinics.com/det/tx Good Neighbor Healthcare Cente

### **Harris County Public Health Dental Clinics**

- Eligibility: Children with Medicaid, Title V, or income ≤200% of federal poverty levels.
- Locations:
  - Antoine Clinic: 5815 Antoine Dr, Suite A, Houston, TX 77091 | 713-602-3355



- o Southeast Clinic: 3737 Red Bluff Rd, Pasadena, TX 77503 | 713-740-5013
- publichealth.harriscountytx.gov

# **Houston Children's Dental Center**

- **Eligibility:** Ages 18 months—21 years; accepts Medicaid, CHIP, private insurance; specializes in special needs care.
- Address: 3800 North Shepherd Dr, Suite B, Houston, TX 77018 | 713-814-4717
- https://bluecloudpsc.com/location/houston-childrens-dental-center/

# **Legacy Community Health (Baker-Ripley Clinic)**

- Eligibility: Ages 6 months—14 years; Medicaid, CHIP, private insurance; sliding scale available.
- Address: 6500 Rookin St, Bldg B, Suite 200, Houston, TX 77074 | 713-351-7350
- https://www.legacycommunityhealth.org/services/dental-care/

# San Jose Clinic: Dentist Ministry Group

- Eligibility: Ages 5+ and adults; cash only/does not accept Medicaid or private insurance; complete eligibility interview.
- **Services:** Exams, cleanings, fillings, extractions.
- Address: 2615 Fannin St, Houston, TX 77002 | 713-228-9411
- sanjoseclinic.org



# EYEGLASSES AND HEARING AID ASSISTANCE



If you or someone you know needs help with the cost of eye exams, eyeglasses, or hearing aids, assistance may be available through your local Lions Club. Each club makes decisions about financial support based on its available resources.

To explore support options, you'll need to contact a Lions Club near you. Use the **Lions Club Locator** tool to find clubs in your area.

# How to Search for a Local Club

There are two ways to search:

# Keyword Search:

Enter the name of a club, city, or country to find clubs that match your search exactly. This is helpful if you're looking for a specific club or want to see all clubs in a given location.

### Location Search (Powered by Google Maps):

Enter your town or home address to find clubs near you. The search will return clubs within a certain radius of the location you enter, making it easy to connect with a nearby club that may be able to help.

• For more information, visit the <u>Lions Club website</u> and select the **"Find a Club"** option.



# **LOW-COST INTERNET OPTIONS**

Below are affordable internet programs available to qualifying families. Each program has different eligibility requirements and benefits.

Provider	<b>Monthly Cost</b>	Eligibility	Key Details
AT&T Access att.com/internet/access	<b>\$5-\$10/month</b> + tax		Free installation, no contract; data caps may apply
Xfinity Internet Essentials is.gd/xfinityhelp	+ tax	SNAP, NSLP, Medicaid, SSI, VA pension, housing assistance, Tribal programs; must not have had Xfinity service in past 90 days	Eligible for \$149.99 laptop; available to new and existing customers
Optimum Advantage Internet is.gd/optimumadv	<b>\$14.99/month</b> + tax	veterans; must qualify for the Affordable Connectivity Program	Free installation; may be free with ACP; no outstanding Optimum balance required
FCC Lifeline Program lifelinesupport.org	III IN TO 54 75 OTT	participation in SNAP, SSI,  Medicaid, VA benefits, EPHA, or	Discount can apply to either phone <b>or</b> internet (not both); limit one benefit per household
StandUp Wireless standupwireless.com/lifeline	Lifeline)	at or below 135% of the federal	Includes unlimited texting, 1,000 talk minutes, and 4.5 GB of data; bring your own phone



# **CLOTHING, UNIFORM, AND SUPPLIES**

### **School Districts**

Most area public schools offer on-campus support through school counselors. Counselors can assist with:

- Clothing and uniforms
- · School supplies
- Referrals for basic needs, mental health services, and more

**L** Action Step: Contact the counselor at your child's specific school to request help.

If your child attends a **magnet, charter, or private school**, please refer to the **community-based resources** listed below.

# **Independent School Districts (ISDs)**

District	Website	Contact Info	Services
Alief ISD	aliofied not	281-498-8110	Campus counselor provides school supplies, uniforms,
Allel ISD	<u>aliefisd.net</u>	281-498-8110	and referrals for other services.
Alvin ISD	alvinisd.net	281-388-1130	Contact campus counselor for clothing/supply help.
Conroe ISD	conroeisd.net	936-709-7752	Community Outreach Office—assistance without application.
Dickinson ISD	dickinsonisd.org	281-229-6000	Contact school counselor for assistance.
Fort Bend ISD	fortbendisd.com	281-634-1000	Contact campus counselor. Coordinator: Rachel McCune (Rachel.mccune@fortbendisd.com)
Galveston ISD	gisd.org	409-766-5100	Contact school counselor for help.
Goose Creek ISD	gccisd.net	281-420-4800	Contact school counselor for assistance.
Hitchcock ISD	hitchcockisd.org	409-316-6545	Contact school counselor for assistance.
Houston ISD	houstonisd.org	713-556-6000	Campus counselor offers school supplies, uniforms, and family referrals.
Katy ISD	katyisd.org	281-396-6000	School counselors provide school supplies, clothing, and follow-up support.
Klein ISD	kleinisd.net	832-249-4000	Contact counselor for school supply assistance.
LaPorte ISD	lpisd.org	281-604-7000	School vouchers through counselors. Backpack/supply giveaway Aug 5. Contact: Janci Alfaro (Alfaroj@lpisd.org, 281-604-7123).
New Caney ISD	newcaneyisd.org	281-577-8600	Contact school counselor for help.
Santa Fe ISD	sfisd.org	409-925-3526	Contact school counselor for assistance.
Spring Branch ISD	springbranchisd.com	713-251-2212	Campus counselor can help with clothing, supplies, and family support. Contact: Maria Uribe Pizana.



# **Community-Based Resources**

Organization	Website	Phone	Services
Assistance League Operation School Bell	assistanceleague.org/houston/operation- school-bell	281-675-2493	School uniforms and supplies (serves HISD, Spring Branch, Alief, Harris County Head Start)
Catholic Charities	catholiccharities.org	713-526-4611	Clothing closet for families in need
Christian Community Service Center	ccschouston.org	713-961-3993	Serves specific ZIP codes with school clothing & supplies
Clothed By Faith	clothedbyfaith.org/request-individuals	281-676-8837	Free clothing for students; online request form available
		832-535-2542	School supplies for Title 1 students in Katy ISD
Houston Children's Charity	houstonchildrenscharity.org/	713-524-2878	Provides back to school supplies, clothing and uniform closet.
Interfaith Caring Ministries	icmtx.org/school-supplies	281-332-3881	Help for Clear Creek & Friendswood districts
Memorial Assistance Ministries (MAM)	mamhouston.org/services	346-415-6169	Back-to-school support for families in select ZIP codes
My Brother's Keeper	houstonhealth.org/services/family-child- health/mbk	281-498-9933	Clothing and supplies – 12621 Bissonnet, Houston TX 77099
St. John's Downtown (UMC)	stjohnsdowntown.org	713-659-3237	School supplies and uniforms
St. John Vianney	stjohnvianney.org		Must make appointment. Resale program (Joseph's Coat) offers clothing assistance. Serves 77077 & 77079.

# **Tips for Families**

- Always **start with your school counselor**, even if you plan to use a community resource. They may help expedite or coordinate referrals.
- For private/magnet schools, community resources are your best bet.



# COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

# **Understanding Scholarships**

Scholarships are free money for school - You don't have to pay them back. They come from many places such as schools, businesses, community groups, churches, and more. Some scholarships cover all your tuition; others might just help with books or fees. Every bit helps!

# Types of Scholarships:

- Merit-based: Based on your achievements (grades, talents, leadership, etc.).
- Need-based: Based on your family's financial situation.
- Group-specific: Some are for certain groups (ex: women, military families, specific ethnic backgrounds).

# **How to Find Scholarships**

You can start your search here:

- · Your high school counselor
- Your college's financial aid office
- Online: CareerOneStop Scholarship Finder, Fastweb.com, Scholarships.com, CollegeBoard.com
- Community and religious groups
- Employers (yours or your parents')
- Ethnic or cultural organizations
- Libraries and professional associations

### **Tips for Applying**

- Start early! Some deadlines are a year before college starts.
- Stay organized:
  - o Create a list or spreadsheet of scholarships, deadlines, and materials needed.
  - Set up an email just for scholarship applications.
  - o Gather test scores, transcripts, and letters of recommendation in advance.
- Each application is different:
  - Read the requirements carefully.
  - Write a strong personal essay or statement.
  - o Proofread everything before submitting.
  - Make copies of all your applications.



# **After You Apply**

- Be patient—it may take weeks or months to hear back.
- If you win a scholarship, the money might go straight to your college or to you directly.
- Let your school know—they will adjust your other financial aid if needed.
- Always send a thank-you letter to show your appreciation.

# **Great Scholarships to Check Out**

Here are some well-known programs worth exploring:

Program	Website	Who It's For
Gates Millennium Scholars	gmsp.org	Minority students with financial need
Hispanic Scholarship Fund	<u>hsf.net</u>	Latino students
UNCF Scholarships	uncf.org	African American students
Jack Kent Cooke Foundation	ikcf.org	High-achieving, low-income students
Google Scholarships	buildyourfuture.withgoogle.com	Students in computer science
Oracle STEM Scholarships	<u>oracle.com</u>	Minority STEM students
UNCF/Koch Scholars	uncf.org	African American students interested in business
Ronald McDonald House Scholarships	rmhc.org	Students with financial need
Patient Advocate Foundation	patientadvocate.org	Students with health-related challenges
4-H Scholarships	4-h.org	Many types, including disability- focused

### **Other Financial Aid**

Besides scholarships, you may also be eligible for:

- Grants (free money)
- Work-study (earn money towards tuition while in school)
- Student loans (must be paid back with interest)
- To apply for federal aid, fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (<u>FAFSA</u>).



# HOUSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY CARD INFORMATION

Get free access to books, music, movies, and more with a MyLink Library Card!



You can apply for your card:

- In person at any Houston Public Library location, or
- **Online** at: <a href="https://houstonlibrary.org/mylink">https://houstonlibrary.org/mylink</a>

With your **free** MyLink card, you'll gain access to:

- E-books and audiobooks
- Magazines and music
- Online learning resources
- And hundreds of other library services!

# **Online Registration Instructions**

- Visit: https://houstonlibrary.org/mylink
- Select your Language and Residency Status
- Choose your Preferred Library Location
- Enter the Cardholder's Information
- Enter your Home Address
- Create a PIN (Personal Identification Number)
- Tip: Choose a PIN that's easy for you to remember.
- Your Library Card Number and PIN will give you full access to digital resources.

To complete your registration, you may use one of the following:

- Texas Driver's License
- Texas State ID
- Passport or Consular ID
- **No ID?** No problem you can show a **utility bill** or **insurance card** as proof of residency.

# **Steps to Register In Person**

- 1) Visit your preferred Houston Public Library location.
- 2) Check in at the reception desk and let staff know you want to apply for a library card.
- 3) You'll be directed to an iPad station to complete the form online or you may request a paper form if you prefer.

### Information You'll Need to Provide:

- Select your **Language** and **Residency Status**
- Choose your Preferred Library Location
- Enter **Cardholder Information** (name, date of birth, etc.)
- Enter your Home Address



- Create a PIN (Personal Identification Number)
- Type your Email Address

# **What Happens Next?**

- Once you submit your form, you'll receive an email with your **digital library card**.
- If you'd like a **physical card**, return to the reception desk to request one.

# What You'll Need to Show:

- Please present one of the following forms of **identification**:
- Texas Driver's License
- Texas State ID
- Passport or Consular ID
- **No ID?** No problem you can show a **utility bill** or **insurance card** as proof of residency.



# HOUSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES



The **Houston Public Library (HPL)** now offers **laptops** and **mobile hotspots** for checkout to all library cardholders. Stay connected at home, school, or on the go!

### What's Available

- Connected Laptops (Chromebooks with built-in internet access)
- Mobile Hotspots
- Loan Period: Up to 3 weeks
- Who Can Borrow: Any HPL cardholder

### How to Check One Out

Visit the HPL Website: <a href="https://homenstance.com/homens

- 1. Search for the Device:
  - o At the top of the page, click "Search"
  - o Type in:
    - "Houston Public Library Connected Laptop"
    - or "Houston Public Library Hotspot"
  - o Click Search
- 2. Place a Hold:
  - Laptop: Click on "Houston Public Library Connected Laptop", then select "Place Hold"
    - Note: Connected Laptops are Chromebooks that include built-in internet access offering the same experience as a public library computer.
  - Hotspot: Click "Place Hold" next to the hotspot listing.
- 3. Log In to Complete Your Hold:

Use your **library card number** and **PIN** to finish the checkout process.

**Need Help?** Central Library Support \$832-393-1313



# **HOUSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY DIGITAL MEDIA**





Hoopla is a groundbreaking digital media service offered by your local public library that allows you to borrow movies, music, audiobooks, eBooks, comics and TV shows to enjoy on your computer, tablet, or phone – and even your TV! With no waiting, titles can be streamed immediately or downloaded to phones or tablets for offline enjoyment later. Hundreds of thousands of titles to choose from, with more being added daily.

Your public library is at your fingertips.



No physical library card is needed to enjoy electronic resources! Apply online or in person to get your digital library card.



# **HOUSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY COLLEGE RESOURCES**



Houston Public Library is also offering premier resources for first time college seekers. Services are free and accessible with experienced staff available to ensure all learners are college and career ready. They offer assistance with career planning and preparing, applying, or enrolling in a college or university.

Located inside Carnegie Neighborhood Library and Center for Learning for in-person advising. (Inperson advising to all walk-ins

Please scan the QR Code to schedule a virtual advising session.



¡Servicios también están disponible en Español!

Help with Financial Aid	College Enrollment
Assistance with applying for FAFSA, TASFA,	Assistance with completing college applications,
scholarships, verification process, and college	admissions interviewing skills, essay writing, or
expenses analysis, financial literacy and student	transfer planning.
loan guidance	

