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Please do not reply to this email. You can reach my office by emailing [senatorlindseywilliams@pasenate.com](mailto:senatorlindseywilliams@pasenate.com).

# State Senator **LINDSEY M. WILLIAMS** Your District 38 Update



## Upcoming Events

# PA SENATE DEMOCRATS

NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH  
VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

## Monday, Sept. 21 @ 6PM

In honor of National Recovery Month and because of the impact of COVID-19 on addiction, the PA Senate Dems are hosting a virtual town hall to learn from experts, advocates and survivors. You'll hear about the journey to recovery and the resources that are available in PA. Following remarks from our panel, attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions. [Register at PASenate.com/Recovery.](https://PASenate.com/Recovery)



To celebrate Recovery Month every September, the PA Senate Democrats host open houses on recovery resources throughout the state; however, COVID-19 has made gatherings like this unsafe and we are offering a virtual townhall this year instead.

Join us on September 21 at 6pm for a statewide virtual townhall where we will hear from experts, advocates and survivors about the journey to recovery and the resources that are available in Pennsylvania. [Register now](#) to reserve your spot.

Following remarks from our panel, attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions.

Register for Virtual Recovery & Resource Town Hall



State Senator  
**LINDSEY M.  
WILLIAMS**  
38th Senatorial District



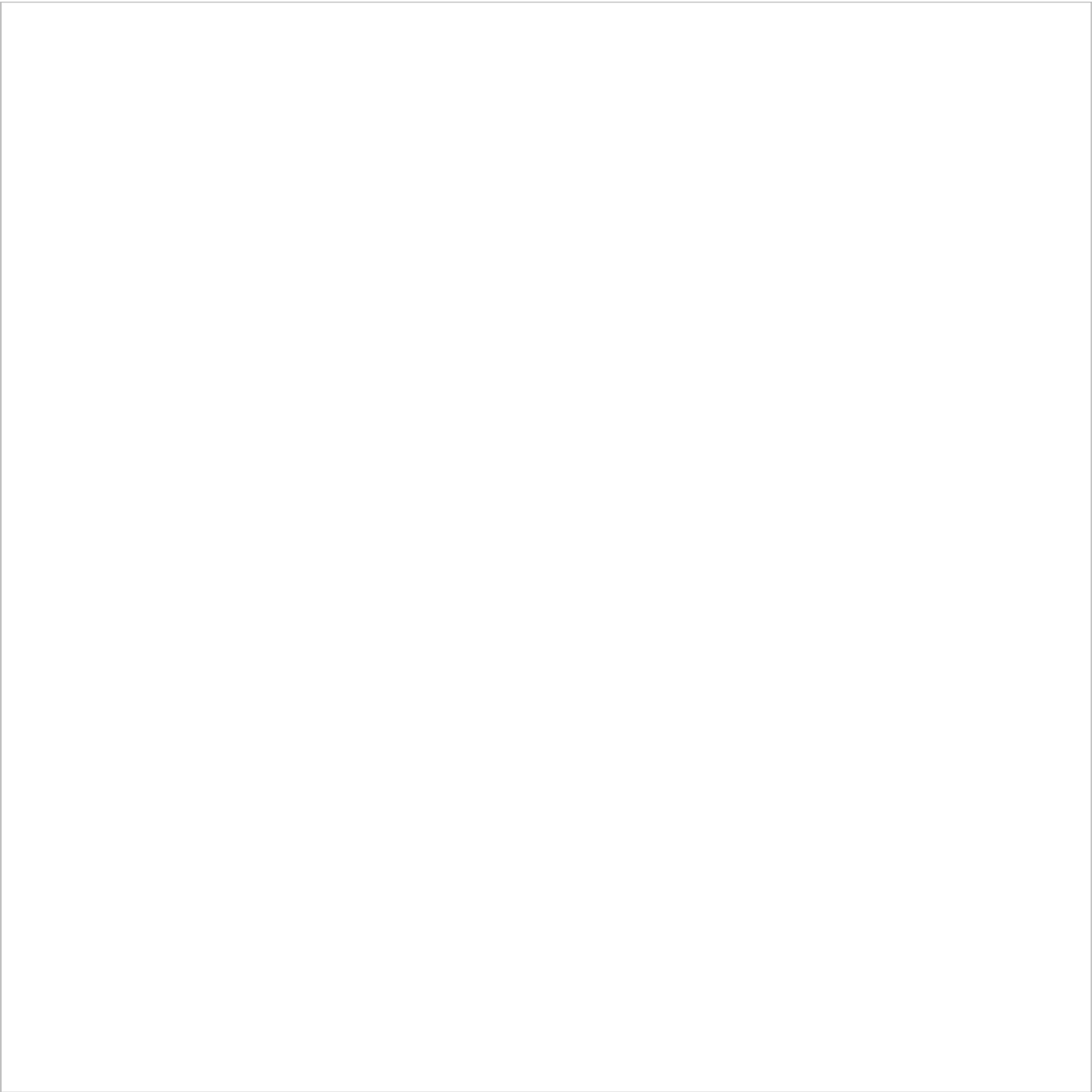
# Free Shredding Event

**Saturday, October 10**  
**10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

We will be hosting a free shredding event on Saturday, October 10 from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm at the Hampton Community Center, 3101 McCully Road, Allison Park, PA 15101. In order to minimize traffic and wait times, pre-registration is required for this event at [SenatorLindseyWilliams.com/shredding](https://SenatorLindseyWilliams.com/shredding). Shredding is limited to 2 boxes per car. No metal/spiral bindings or books are accepted at this event!

Register for Shredding Event

# Full Senate Votes to Allow School Districts to Make Decisions about School Sports



In the past few weeks, many parents have emailed me about their children playing sports. Parents expressed concern about their kids missing an opportunity to play. As a former high school athlete myself, I understand. I know that sports are a valuable part of students' lives--for their physical, mental, and social development. I also know that parents are worried about the health risks of exposing their families to COVID-19.

I voted in favor of [HB 2787](#) in both the Education Committee and on the Senate Floor. HB 2787 allows individual school districts to make decisions on school sports and other extracurricular activities. This was not an easy decision for me. Pennsylvania still lacks proper

testing, contract tracing, and PPE. However, if the state is allowing individual districts to make their own decisions on reopening, it seems inconsistent to not allow them to make their own decisions on sports. I have been disappointed that the state’s guidance on sports has failed to fully address the differences in risks between different sports and the different types/sizes of indoor venues.

# Senate Hearing Focused on Growing Popularity of Outdoor Recreation During Pandemic

Yesterday, I hosted a Senate Democratic Policy Committee [virtual public hearing](#) on the growing public interest in outdoor recreation during the pandemic. We focused on legislative strategies for supporting and managing the growth. I want to thank the organizations and government agencies for taking the time to speak with us yesterday to discuss the incredible amount of work they do to maintain, promote, and conserve the public spaces that we all care about. You can watch the full hearing below.



# Red Cross Virtual Family Assistance Center for Those Who Have Lost Loved Ones to COVID-19

We would like to share information on the Red Cross’s Virtual Family Assistance Center, that

was established to support families struggling with loss and grief due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. The center has a virtual team of specially trained mental health, spiritual care, and health services. The center will also provide:

- Access to national, state or local resources such as grief counseling, legal resources, funeral information, financial information services or veterans’ assistance
- Online classes to foster resilience and facilitate coping skills
- Support for virtual memorial services for families
- Additional state and local resources for many areas



Visit [Redcross.org/VFAC](https://www.redcross.org/VFAC) or call toll-free 833-492-0094 for information, referrals and services to support families in need.

**VOTER  
REGISTRATION  
DEADLINE**

**OCTOBER 19**



**Register.votesPA.com** 

**#ReadyToVotePA**

## Don’t Forget to Complete the Census!

It’s not too late to participate to make sure that your household is counted. You can respond online, by phone, or mail by September 30, 2020. Also, 2020 Census workers are now going door-to-door across

the Commonwealth.

You can visit the census at [Pa.gov/census](https://pa.gov/census) to learn how important your role as a resident is to Pennsylvania and your neighbors. Also learn how to help spread the word about the census.



## Pennsylvania Resources During Pandemic

The Wolf Administration Promotes Programs and Resources Available to Pennsylvania Families with Children During COVID-19 Crisis and 2020-21 Back-to-School Season.

### Child Care

Knowing that schools are more than classrooms, Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has developed resources for aiding in student social and emotional learning, as well as [supporting student and staff wellness](#). PDE has also provided [resources to parents of children with special needs](#) to help them engage with schools in adapting their children's educational plan

When possible, DHS recommends that families choose licensed child care providers, which have routine oversight and must comply with statewide child care regulations. Accommodations for school-age children engaged in distance learning will depend on the individual provider, so families should have that discussion with the provider before enrolling their school-age child. To find licensed providers in your community, visit [www.findchildcare.pa.gov](https://www.findchildcare.pa.gov) or contact your Early Learning Resource Center (ELRC). Find your ELRC at [www.raiseyourstar.org](https://www.raiseyourstar.org).

### Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

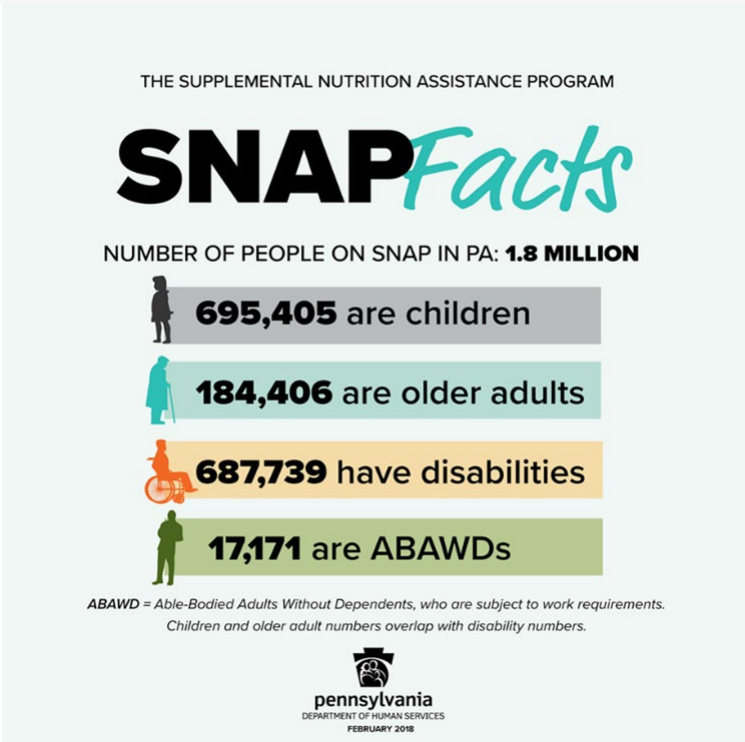
SNAP helps more than 1.9 million Pennsylvanians expand purchasing power by providing money each month to spend on groceries, helping households have resources to purchase enough food to avoid going hungry. Inadequate food and chronic nutrient deficiencies have profound effects on a person's life and health, including increased risks for chronic

diseases, higher chances of hospitalization, poorer overall health, and increased health care costs.

Families struggling to afford food should consider applying for SNAP, formerly known as food stamps. Pennsylvanians can apply any time at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us).

Those who prefer to submit paper documentation can print from the website or request an application by phone at 1-800-692-7462 and mail it to their local [County Assistance Office](#) (CAO) or place it in a CAO’s secure drop box, if available. While CAOs remain closed to the public, the work continues to process applications, determine eligibility and issue benefits. Applications are processed within six days on average for SNAP and once a benefit is approved, it can be immediately accessed. All Pennsylvanians who are in a difficult financial situation due to the economic challenges of this pandemic should apply to see if they are eligible for assistance.

Support and Referral Helpline





# IT'S OKAY TO ASK FOR HELP

If you or someone you know  
is experiencing a **mental health  
crisis**, contact the crisis text  
line by **texting PA to 741-741**.



Anyone struggling with mental health and in need of referrals to helpful programs can call Pennsylvania's new Support & Referral Helpline, which is operated 24/7 by skilled caseworkers who can provide emotional support during this difficult period. The number to call is 1-855-284-2494. For TTY, dial 724-631-5600.

Another helpful resource is the 2-1-1 [hotline](#) operated by the United Way, which can connect people and families to local resources that can help during the public health crisis.

The Wolf Administration recently launched an online [Mental Health Resources Guide](#) to provide Pennsylvanians with a full complement of resources available to help everyone with their mental health needs.

## Lost Wages Assistance

On Sept. 9, 2020 the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) notified L&I that the last week for [Lost Wages Assistance \(LWA\)](#) program is Sept. 5, 2020 due to the fund's depletion. This is not an L&I decision. No additional payments will be allowed after Sept. 5, 2020.

The federal Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) Program provided Pennsylvania \$1.5 billion to give an extra \$300 a week in additional funds to individuals that are unemployed (or partially unemployed) because of COVID-19 from August 1 through September 5.

### LWA Program Eligibility

- You must be fully or partially unemployed due to COVID-19, and
- You must have a weekly benefit rate (+ dependent allowance, if applicable) totaling \$100

or more, and

- You must receive a payment each week from one of the qualifying programs:
- Unemployment Compensation
- Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance
- State Extended Benefits
- Shared-Work
- Trade Readjustment Allowances



# Federal CARES Act

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW & DO

"Unemployed" means you have less or no work being offered to you, or if self-employed, you do not have as much business and are therefore not working as much as you were.

### Which UC program should you file for?



FPUC is paid on all these programs. \$600 on top of each benefit payment, applying to weeks 4/4/20 through 7/25/20.

✳ For individuals owning an "S-Corp," you are self-employed only if you are a corporate officer of your S-Corp. This means you own the company, provide direction and control to the S-Corp, and are considered to be the corporate officer. If you are part of an S-Corp but are not the corporate officer, you are considered a regular employee and would file for regular UC.

#### UPDATES AND INFORMATION

Federal CARES Act, eligibility and how to apply are available at [www.uc.pa.gov](http://www.uc.pa.gov)



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY

Updated July 21, 2020

As always, please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have by phone at 412-364-0469 or by email at [SenatorLindseyWilliams@pasenate.com](mailto:SenatorLindseyWilliams@pasenate.com). My staff will return your call/email within 24 hours (Monday-Friday).



Senator Lindsey Williams

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