

## **Saline, Edwards, Gallatin, Hamilton, Wabash, Wayne, and White County Assistance Programs**

The primary non-profit agency to call for assistance, referrals, and support is the **Wabash Area Development, Inc.** They can help people apply for a number of emergency programs and also offer case management and other social services. The focus is on helping low-income citizens and provide them the tools and ability to gain self-sufficiency.

Rental assistance and specifically Homeless Prevention - Grants and funds may be issued by the Emergency Food and Shelter Program. Money can be used to pay utility or heating bills, rent, and services provided by case managers include Case Management, Advocacy, and Budget Counseling. It is offered across Saline, Edwards, Gallatin, White, Hamilton, Wabash, and Wayne counties. Proof of income and other documentation is needed in order to apply.

Area Development, Inc. processes applications for both Head Start / Early Head Start. Eligible families need to meet income limits and also have children between the ages of birth and 5 years of age. Children and infants that enroll will access educational activities and more. Assistance includes free dental and medical care, snacks and meals, and more. The Illinois and federal government Head Start was created to help all children succeed over the long term. Services are organized both in schools and a home if needed.

As part of Early Head Start, staff assist pregnant women and new mothers in their pre-natal care and education. The community action agency also partners with other community agencies in Wabash Illinois regions, such as public health, social services, libraries, etc. So, get referrals and other aid as well that will strengthen self-reliance in meeting family goals.

Financial assistance encompasses the following.

- Scholarships may be offered by the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG).
- Emergency Services and Financial Aid may be paid out at most onetime per year. Any assistance and support may be given in the areas of disaster relief, medical care, gasoline, water, etc.
- Food, including in an emergency, is available one time per month in Gallatin, Hamilton, and nearby towns. Surplus USDA Commodities may be served from regional pantries or get advice and help in applying for food stamps.
- Employment assistance and job search support is offered. Receive work clothing required to keep or obtain a job such as uniforms, steel toed boots, or nursing scrubs.
- The federal government LIHEAP assists poor and lower income households with paying their heating & electric bills. Households do not have to be disconnected to apply.
- While more limited, grants can be used to pay to replace or repair heating or cooling equipment for qualified homeowners.
- Warm Neighbors Cool Friends is another crisis program for utility bills. The applicant also needs to be a senior and over the age of 60. The WADI community action agency also works with The Energy Assistance Foundation to help those who are most at risk.
- Weatherization can hopefully reduce energy costs and make home more energy efficient. This is offered in counties including White, Edwards, Gallatin, Saline, Wabash, Hamilton, or Wayne. Sealing cracks with weather-stripping and caulk, Clean and tune heating systems, repairing windows and doors, and more is offered may all be completed.

Housing assistance and services to help income eligible, first time homebuyers with the purchase of a home in Wabash region. In addition, Wabash Area Development may be able to provide grants or low interest loans for the repair of a home to ensure it is safe. Housing counselors can work with the client.

Workforce Development & Training, or WIA, is a federal government funded program that provides a variety of on-the-job training and classroom programs. Employment assistance is for dislocated workers, adults and youth. Funds may even be offered to help pay for Book payments, Child Care, Purchase of uniforms and tools, and Tuition payments for approved training programs.

Senior Nutrition Centers are often run in partnership with agency on aging offices, the Salvation Army, and churches. They can serve low cost meals for people aged 60 and up. Home delivery is available for the oldest senior citizens and the homebound. In addition to food, receive Medicare Prescription Assistance, Health screenings, Exercise classes, and other support.

Other resources for the working poor include Early Head Start, literacy programs, Child Care, GED preparation, job training and on-the-job support, budget counseling, rental subsidies, job search assistance, Dislocated Worker Program, public internet access, and small business development loan program.

Elderly programs can help sustain and honor the elderly. Resources such as senior nutrition centers, telephone reassurance, home delivered meals, medical transportation, and free Medicare prescription information.

**Wabash Area Development, Inc.** has many offices in the area as shown below.

- 110 Latham Street, Enfield, IL 62835-0070, call (618) 963-2387
- Edwards County is located at 334 Industrial Ave, Albion Illinois 62806. Call (618) 445-2379
- Gallatin County WADI, 127 E Logan Ave, Shawneetown IL 62984, telephone (618) 269-3486
- Hamilton County, 108 E Jefferson, McLeansboro IL 62859. Call the non-profit at (618) 643-2161.
- Saline County WADI, 14 Veterans Drive, Harrisburg IL 62946. Call (618) 252-2680
- WADI of Wabash County has an office at 823 W. 9th St, Mt Carmel Illinois 62863. Call (618) 262-4151.
- Wayne County, 2004 W Delaware, Fairfield Illinois 62837, call (618) 842-2962 for information.
- White County, 1124 Oak St, Carmi IL 62821, (618) 384-5541

**Public and government aid** - Each county has a DHS center that can help people apply for government and public aid. This includes programs such as Temporary Cash Assistance/TANF, SNAP, or Medicaid. Referrals and other support is offered too.

- DHS Family Community Resource Center in Saline County and the Family Community Resource Center, 320 Raymond Street, Harrisburg, Illinois 62946, telephone: (618) 253-7161.
- Jefferson County DHS Family Community Resource Center also can help. Their office is at 333 Potomac Boulevard, Mount Vernon, IL 62864. Dial (618) 242-1040.
- Wabash County, Family Community Resource Center, 2517 West 9th Street, Suite A, Mount Carmel, Illinois 62863. Main number is (618) 262-5179.
- DHS Hamilton County. This regional Family Community Resource Center is at 1602 North Main Street, Benton, IL 62812. Call (618) 439-4351.

**Saline Baptist Food Pantry** is a local food bank. Groceries, free meals, and more is available. 634 N Jackson St, Harrisburg, Illinois 62946. Main phone (618) 252-2374.

**Salvation Army** runs a Thrift Store and provides other social services and emergency aid. This can include funds for paying bills, rent, free food, and more. Christmas and holiday assistance is available

as well, including meals and free toys. The main office is at 10 W Locust St, Harrisburg, Illinois 62946. Call (618) 253-4421

**Tri-State Foodbank** - Food and grocery assistance is for income eligible households and low-income families in the following counties. The non-profit works with churches, soup kitchens, and other so-called feeding sites in the southern Illinois region. Edwards, Gallatin, Hardin, Pulaski, Richland, Saline, Wabash, Wayne, and White. Main address is 801 E. Michigan Avenue, Evansville, Illinois 47711, (812) 425-0775