



April 14, 2020

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark continues to provide many essential services to the community.

Our *Emergency Shelters and other residential programs* remain open each night for approximately 350 people. Each facility has a designated area where people can isolate if they test positive, and aggressive cleaning protocols have been implemented. Staff will provide access immediately to each individual with the care they need, whether in hospital or isolation.

Catholic Charities' *Emergency Food and Nutrition Network* provides bulk food support to a network of approximately 80 volunteer-run food pantries throughout the Archdiocese. A number of them have reduced hours or are closed due to lack of volunteers, or a shortage of food supplies. Catholic Charities is working with donors such as the Knights of Columbus to ensure that food pantries have the supplies they need, as the food pantries are reporting an increase in demand, as millions of people are now unemployed. Please visit our website for a [list of pantries](#) that remain open.

Catholic Charities continues to offer a number of *behavioral health and clinical programs* for people with mental illness. A few programs are still open and seeing clients in person, but we have implemented telehealth for the majority of our programs. People with mental illness are dealing with confusion and anxiety of the unknown, as well as the stress of quarantine and isolation.

Our *Parish Access Centers* are open to help people with their basic needs. Staff are available to help people who are now unemployed and stressed about paying rent and buying food. Staff assist the community by directing people to the appropriate resources.

Catholic Charities has a number of programs still operating to help *children and families*. Tele-mental health services are being provided to families to ensure that they are receiving the care and support that they need. Social workers are checking in with their students who could use some support during their time at home.

Catholic Charities is connecting with *seniors* in our communities who might be isolated, checking in to see that they have food and care that they need. Staff and volunteers are delivering food to seniors as needed.

Our *Immigration Assistance Program* has suspended walk-in consultations, in-person legal services appointments, and ESL classes. Safe Release Support services (fingerprinting) and Legal Orientation Program for Custodians continue to be available, but by appointment only.

All three of our *educational programs* have moved to a remote learning environment. The Academy has teachers providing lessons electronically and staff provide daily feedback with parents and students. The pre-schools have provided parents with lesson plans, and are connecting with parents regularly. Families that rely on the schools for meals are being connected with appropriate resources.

Catholic Charities welcomes *donations* to help us continue to serve people through this crisis. To give, [click here](#). If you would like to support our food pantries, we ask that a monetary donation be made instead of food items, to minimize the need for people to go out in the community to purchase or deliver donations, as well as to reduce any risk to our volunteers and staff processing the food items. Simply put “Food Pantries” in the memo section of the donation form.