

VIRTUAL



COMMUNITY

TOWN HALLS

Learn about
COVID-19 services
available from
the county.



Veteran Services: Benefits, Health Care and Other Assistance
Wednesday, May 13, 2020

Disclaimer

- This Town Hall is being recorded.
- We are recording for documentation and language/translation purposes.
- We cannot get into specifics about client cases or discuss private and confidential information about residents we serve on this town hall.

Town Hall Agenda

- Opening Remarks
- Veterans Services Overview
- Discussion with Community
- Closing & Next Steps

Virtual Town Hall Agreements

- Keep your phone and/or device on mute if you are not speaking.
- Listen actively -- respect others when they are talking.
- Speak from your own experience instead of generalizing ("I" instead of "they," "we," and "you").
- Do not be afraid to respectfully challenge one another by asking questions but refrain from personal attacks -- focus on ideas.
- Participate to the fullest of your ability -- community growth depends on the inclusion of every individual voice.
- The goal is not to agree -- it is to gain a deeper understanding.
- Step up and Step Back!

Town Hall Purpose & Expectations

- Share the resources and services that are available to those in need throughout Ramsey County.
 - Answer questions from the community about the resources and services provided thus far during the COVID-19 response.
 - Ramsey County will work to act on and be responsive to the needs and questions of community through action, follow-up, and updates on progress.
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Opening Remarks

Health & Wellness Service Team

Karen Saltis, Deputy County Manager

Ramsey County Vision

Vision

A vibrant community where all are valued and thrive.

Mission

A county of excellence working with you to enhance our quality of life



Strategic Priorities

1. Residents First: Effective, Efficient, and Accessible Operations
2. **Advancing Racial and Health Equity in All Decision-Making**
3. **Inclusive, Effective and Meaningful Community Engagement**
4. Integrated Approach to Health, Wellness and Justice
5. Advancing a Holistic Approach to Strengthen Youth and Families
6. Comprehensive Economic Development to Build Prosperity
7. Stability Starts with a Place to Call Home
8. Talent Attraction, Retention and Promotion

Veteran Services: Benefits, Health Care and Other Assistance

Maria Wetherall, Veterans Services Director

Veterans Services Department

- Veterans Services provides assistance with applying for healthcare, filing claims for disability and pension benefits, referral and education for all types of veterans benefits.
- Veterans Services is open for business and serving people by phone and email Monday through Friday 8am to 4:30pm.
- **Contact our office by phone at 651-266-2545 or contact our offices at askveteransservice@co.ramsey.mn.us with questions or requests for service.**

Veterans Services Department

- ***COVID-19 Disaster Relief Grant*** – a one time \$1000 payment to veterans and families to help mitigate the negative effects and economic impact of COVID-19
- ***COVID-19 Special Needs Grant***- a one time grant up to \$3000 which can be used for a variety of expenses and is paid directly to a vendor

VETERANS ASSISTANCE

Help for veterans affected by COVID-19.



Have you served your country as a member of the US Armed Forces?

Have you experienced financial loss on or after March 13, 2020, Governor Walz's Emergency Executive Stay at Home Order?

If you are a veteran, as defined by Minnesota Statute 197.447, you may be eligible for special COVID-19 grants offered by the Minnesota Department of Veteran Services:

COVID-19 Disaster Relief Grant - a one time \$1,000 payment to veterans and families to help mitigate the negative effects and economic impact of COVID-19.

COVID-19 Special Needs Grant - a one time grant up to \$3,000 which can be used for a variety of expenses and is paid directly to a vendor.

ASSISTANCE ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for these grants you must be:

- ✓ A veteran as defined by [Minnesota Statute 197.447](#) or surviving spouse who has not remarried.
- ✓ A Minnesota resident.
- ✓ Financially impacted by COVID-19.

APPLY FOR THE GRANTS

Ramsey County Veterans Services is here to help you apply for these assistance grants. Call us Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at 651-266-2545.

Both of the grants require verifications.

- The Disaster Relief Grant requires the DD214 document, proof of Minnesota residency and documentation that you have been financially impacted by COVID-19.
- The Special Needs Grant requires the above documents, two months of most recent bank statements, documentation of reduction in income, documentation of how you have been financially impacted by COVID-19, documentation of your need (copy of lease, late rent notice, mortgage statement) and list of your monthly expenses.

OTHER HELP AVAILABLE THROUGH RAMSEY COUNTY

If you are concerned about interruptions in your income and paying your bills, Ramsey County can help through Emergency Assistance (EA) and Emergency General Assistance (EGA). EA and EGA help with shelter, such as past due rent, a damage deposit, or to stop foreclosure. EA and EGA also help pay for utilities, when there is threat of disconnection. Utilities include electricity, heat, and water.

If you are not already receiving public assistance, apply for EA and EGA online at applymn.dhs.mn.gov.

Community Discussion and Questions & Answers

Additional questions or comments for Veterans Services

Contact:

Maria Wetherall

651-266-2544

maria.wetherall@ramseycounty.us

Or

racialequity@ramseycounty.us

Community Resources & Next Steps

County COVID-19 Resources

- **Ramsey County Community Website**
<https://www.ramseycounty.us/covid-19-info/community-resources>
- **Ramsey County assistance**
Customer Contact Center: 651-266-8500 (8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Financial Assistance - 651-266-4444

<https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/assistance-support/assistance/financial-assistance>

Employment Assistance - 651-266-9890

<https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/assistance-support/employment-assistance-0>

Housing Services & Support - for supportive housing info call 651-215-2262.

<https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/assistance-support/assistance/housing-services-support>

Veterans Services - 651-266-2545

<https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/assistance-support/assistance/veterans-assistance>

Domestic Abuse Resources - 24-hour crisis line 651-645-2824

<https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/assistance-support/protection-crisis-resources/domestic-abuse>

Mental Health Resources

Adult Mental Health Crisis Line: 651-266-7900

Children's Mental Health Crisis Line: 651-266-7878

<https://www.ramseycounty.us/covid-19-info/community-resources/mental-health-resources>

Food Resources

Call the Minnesota Food Help Line - 888-711-1151 - connect to SNAP, WIC or other food resources. Interpreters are available.

<https://www.ramseycounty.us/covid-19-info/community-resources/food-resources>

Immigration - Legal Defense & Wrap Around Services

<https://www.ramseycounty.us/your-government/projects-initiatives/immigration-legal-defense-wrap-around-services>

Technology Help

Computer and Tech Help Appointments by Phone - Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12-2 p.m.

Call 651-724-6001 (press #2) to schedule your half-hour telephone appointment.

<https://www.rclreads.org/technology-help/>

Modified Library Service

Curbside pickup is available at the Maplewood, (651-724-6003, Press 3), Roseville (651-724-6001, Press 3) or Shoreview (651-724-6006, Press 3)

Home Delivery is available for some residents of suburban Ramsey County.

<https://www.rclreads.org/news/rcl-closed-faq/>

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY TOWN HALLS



Learn about
COVID-19 services
available from
the county.



Join county-hosted Zoom meetings for an
overview of COVID-19 services and to get your
questions answered.

Emergency Assistance
and Emergency General
Assistance benefits

Monday, May 11
4-5 p.m.

Crisis, mental health and
emotional services for
children and adults

Tuesday, May 12
4-5 p.m.

Veterans Services:
benefits, health care and
other assistance

Wednesday, May 13
4-5 p.m.

Public Health's
response and services

Thursday, May 14
4-5 p.m.

Community Corrections'
response and services

Monday, May 18
4-5 p.m.

Housing Stability's
response and services

Tuesday, May 19
4-5 p.m.



*A county of excellence working with
you to enhance our quality of life.*

Thank you!

Contact Information:
racialequity@ramseycounty.us