

Below is a list of resources for dialysis patients to help them get additional support during the COVID-19 viral outbreak and beyond. Resource topics include: disability, financial assistance, nutrition, healthcare, housing and utilities, jobs, transportation, women and children, daily living, and staying safe.

Disability Assistance

Review the options for federal and state disability assistance by visiting the website below and selecting your state in the drop down.

<https://www.benefits.gov/categories/Disability%20Assistance>

Financial Assistance

Explore the options for federal and state financial assistance by visiting the website below and selecting your state in the dropdown. Concentrate the list further by:

- Tax Assistance
- Living Assistance
- Insurance
- Loan Repayment

<https://www.benefits.gov/categories/Financial%20Assistance>

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

The TANF program helps low-income families get back on their feet. The range of assistance and program criteria vary by state. For application information visit:

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ofa/help>

Food and Nutrition

Public Resources

Discover the options for federal and state government nutrition assistance by visiting the website below and selecting your state in the dropdown. Refine your results by choosing from the following subcategories:

- School Assistance
- Food Stamps

- Women and Children

<https://www.benefits.gov/categories/Food%20and%20Nutrition>

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a federal nutrition assistance program that helps low-income people by providing a card (similar to a debit card) that can be used to purchase eligible food at authorized retail food stores. To learn about eligibility visit:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/recipient/eligibility>

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) is a federal program that provides low-income people with free emergency food assistance. To learn about eligibility visit:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tefap/applicant-recipient>

Private Service

Meals on Wheels America is a national organization that focuses on senior isolation and hunger. Specifically, the organization helps American seniors live fulfilled lives with independence and dignity by delivering healthy meals, making friendly visits and doing safety checks. To find a local Meals on Wheels service provider, visit:

<https://www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org/find-meals>

Healthcare and Medical Resources

Federal and State Assistance Programs

Learn about federal and state government healthcare assistance by visiting the website below and selecting your state in the dropdown. You can further focus your search by filtering for the following categories:

- HIV/ AIDS
- Medicaid and Medicare
- Medicare Social Security
- Disability Assistance
- Veterans' Health
- Children's Health
- Counsel and Counseling

<https://www.benefits.gov/categories/Healthcare%20and%20Medical%20Assistance>

COBRA Continuation Coverage

If you lose your job, COBRA Continuation Coverage may be worth considering for maintaining healthcare coverage until you find a new employment opportunity.

https://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Programs-and-Initiatives/Other-Insurance-Protections/cobra_qna

Telehealth and Telemedicine

Below is a toolkit designed to help End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) patients increase access to quality healthcare by expanding the use of technology for telehealth and telemedicine. Although the toolkit is geared towards healthcare professionals, it outlines the three types of services Medicare beneficiaries can expect when using technology to meet their healthcare needs.

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/esrd-provider-telehealth-telemedicine-toolkit.pdf>

Housing and Utility Resources

Find out about federal and state government assistance programs related to housing and utilities at the website below and selecting your state in the dropdown.

<https://www.benefits.gov/categories/Housing%20and%20Public%20Utilities>

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

The LIHEAP program help low-income households with their heating and cooling bills.

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/consumer-frquently-asked-questions>

Job-Related Resources

Employment and Career Development

Find out about federal and state government career opportunities by visiting the website below and selecting your state in the dropdown.

<https://www.benefits.gov/categories/Employment%20and%20Career%20Development>

Unemployment Assistance

Review federal and state government unemployment assistance programs by visiting the website below and selecting your state in the dropdown.

<https://www.benefits.gov/categories/Unemployment%20Assistance>

Disaster Unemployment Assistance

If you do not qualify for regular unemployment assistance, you may be eligible for disaster unemployment assistance, which provides assistance to people who have become unemployed as a direct result of a Presidentially declared major disaster:

<https://oui.doleta.gov/unemploy/disaster.asp>

US Department of Labor Resources

Explore topics related to workplace safety; wages, hours and leave; unemployment insurance flexibilities; support for dislocated workers and states; and more.

<https://www.dol.gov/coronavirus>

Transportation

The US Department of Transportation provides a summary of how the different sectors of the transportation industry are addressing the COVID-19 outbreak.

<https://www.transportation.gov/coronavirus>

Ride-Sharing Applications

Multiple ride-sharing companies are expanding their services to increase patient access to quality healthcare: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/brucejapsen/2020/03/05/uber-and-lyft-launch-new-services-to-address-social-determinants-of-health/amp/>

Travel Assistance for Veterans

Kidney disease is 34 percent higher among veterans than the general population. Below are some federally-funded travel resources for this group:

Travel Reimbursement: <https://www.benefits.gov/benefit/314>

Automobiles and Adaptive Equipment for Disabled Veterans and Servicemembers: <https://www.benefits.gov/benefit/278>

Women and Children Assistance

For federal and state government assistance specifically geared toward women and children visit the website below and select your state in the dropdown.

<https://www.benefits.gov/categories/Women%20and%20Children>

WIC Program

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is a federal government assistance program that helps low-income pregnant women, breastfeeding women and children below age five with healthcare and nutrition.

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic>

Daily and Home Living

This resource is a checklist for creating a household plan of action:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/get-your-household-ready-for-COVID-19.html>

Here is a guide for cleaning and disinfecting your house: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cleaning-disinfection.html>

This is a guide for family members and caregivers of people who have or suspected to have the COVID-19 virus: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-prevent-spread.html>

Managing stress and anxiety: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/managing-stress-anxiety.html>

Caring for children: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/children.html>

Pets and COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/animals.html>

Staying Safe

Dialysis Facilities

This informational handout is for dialysis facilities to share with patients and caregivers to explain how they are preparing for the possible arrival of patients with COVID-19:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/healthcare-facilities/316157-A_FS_KeepingPatientsSafe.pdf

This article discusses how the dialysis facilities are working together to ensure all patients receive life-saving dialysis treatments during the COVID-19 outbreak:

https://www.gjsentinel.com/news/colorado/focus-on-patient-care-brings-industry-together-to-fight-crisis/article_11091279-8987-570e-af05-c28ab6273308.html

Dialysis Patients

This handout is for patients on dialysis to learn more about what COVID-19 means for their daily activities and their dialysis treatments:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/healthcare-facilities/316158-A_FS_ProtectSelfAndFam.pdf

General Population

This article reports on the positive impact strict containment strategies are having on helping to slow the spread of COVID-19: <https://nyti.ms/3dNWgwO>

This article explains the effectiveness of wearing masks: <https://www.wired.com/story/its-time-to-face-facts-america-masks-work/>

Additional Assistance Programs

Fill out this questionnaire at the website below to determine if you are eligible for additional federal and state assistance programs.

<https://www.benefits.gov/benefit-finder>

Please let us know if you uncover any additional COVID-19 resources for dialysis patients.