



## Resources

**EVENT** | LaGrange Partners

**DATE** | April 11, 2023

**FIND ONLINE** | [LaGrange Partners](#)

Organization	Where to find it	Mission
Volunteer Lawyer Program of NE Indiana	<a href="http://www.vlpnei.org/">http://www.vlpnei.org/</a>	A group of local attorneys and judges committed to providing a program that offers free legal help for low-income individuals and families.
Agape Missions		Provides temporary housing and loving assistance to those who are homeless in LaGrange county.
Bloomfield Township Trustee	<a href="http://www.bloomfieldtownship.org/">http://www.bloomfieldtownship.org/</a>	A form of government where citizen officials contribute to maintain community values and goals
Thrive by 5 Early Childhood Coalition	<a href="https://noblethriveby5.org/">https://noblethriveby5.org/</a>	When children have what they need for brain development, parents are supported, child care professionals are valued, and employers are invested in early learning, the entire community will thrive.
Arc of LaGrange County	<a href="https://thearc.org/chapter/the-arc-of-lagrange-county/">https://thearc.org/chapter/the-arc-of-lagrange-county/</a>	Arc promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes.
St. Martin's Healthcare	<a href="https://www.smhcin.org/">https://www.smhcin.org/</a>	To offer quality healthcare to those individuals without the means to provide for themselves.

Salvation Army - LaGrange, Elkhart & Steuben Counties	<a href="https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/Elkhart/">https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/Elkhart/</a>	Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.
Cancer Services	<a href="https://www.cancer-services.org/">https://www.cancer-services.org/</a>	Enhance the quality of life of those affected by cancer by providing meaningful resources, information, and compassionate assistance.
FCS Head Start - Lagrange Center		A federal program that promotes the school readiness of children under five from low-income families by enhancing their cognitive, social and emotional development.
Parkview Hospice	<a href="#">Parkview Hospice</a>	Our team of compassionate, caring healthcare professionals develop a comprehensive care plan for each patient and offer the support and services they need in an inpatient or outpatient setting.

## Indiana Township Emergency Assistance

- LaGrange county is divided into 11 townships
- Those seeking emergency assistance must contact the township trustee in the township where they reside.
  - IC 12-20-8-1 "Resident" defined
    - Sec. 1. For purposes of this chapter, an individual is a "resident" of a township or county if the individual:
      - (1) has located in the township or county; and
      - (2) intends to make the township or county the individual's sole place of residence.
- Mandate is to assist qualified residents maintain basic needs
  - Clothing; Food; Household supplies; Medical assistance; Shelter; Utilities; Other services depending on circumstances
- Shelter
  - Goal is to keep residents in their existing housing and suggest resources with which they can maintain their housing without township assistance

## Bloomfield Township

- Housing assistance granted in 2022
  - 43 households (111 individuals)
  - \$26,839.00

## Limitations for assisting the homeless

- Available local short term housing
- Available local shelters
  - Open spots
  - Accessibility

## Why do I see the Trustee if I need help?

The township trustee is an elected official who, in addition to other duties, is designated as the administrator of township assistance. The township trustee, as administrator of township assistance, is responsible for the oversight and care of all poor individuals in the township as long as the individuals remain in the trustee's charge. It is the trustee's responsibility to see that township residents are properly taken care of in the manner required by law.

## What kind of assistance can the township trustee provide?

Specifically, the trustee may provide assistance to meet the following basic needs:

1. Clothing: necessary for employment, school or ordinary decency.
2. Food: for households not receiving food stamps. The trustee will not supplement food stamps except in specific emergencies such as theft, spoilage or health needs.
3. Household Supplies: cleaning and hygiene items.
4. Medical Assistance: not otherwise provided by insurance, clinics, and/or other government subsidized programs.
5. Shelter: The trustee will not pay for housing that is unfit.
6. Utilities: bills in the current name of the applicant for the current residence.
7. Other services such as transportation to seek and/or maintain employment, and burials may be provided depending on the circumstances.

## Who is eligible for township assistance?

There are three (3) general rules that establish your eligibility:

1. Apply to the township where you live;
2. Be in need of the essentials of life; and
3. Be willing to help yourself as much as possible.

## How is need determined?

A person or family is in need if there is not enough income or resources to provide the basic necessities of life. Necessities of life include food, shelter, utilities, medical, household supplies, clothing and other basic needs.

Eligibility is determined by the trustee or staff after an application is completed, and is based on written standards adopted by the township.

## How do I apply for township trustee assistance?

In most cases you will need to phone the trustee's office to schedule an appointment. Some townships accept walk-ins, but most prefer or require appointments.

An individual seeking township assistance will be given an application and a list of other documents or information needed to complete the application. Generally, an appointment will be scheduled at this time for an interview with the trustee or investigator, at which time the application and all requested information is to be completed. An application is not considered completed until all adult members of the household have signed all forms and documents, including a *Disclosure and Release of Information*, that are required by law or are determined necessary by the township.

The township trustee or staff will assist any individual in completing the application when needed if the applicant has a mental or physical disability, or cannot read or write the English language. If an individual who is required to sign a form as per the application process is unable to sign the form in the trustee's office due to a physical or mental disability, or illness, the trustee shall make alternate arrangements to obtain the individual's signature.

## What should I bring in when I come to apply?

Some of the most important information to bring with you are:

1. Identification and proof of residence, along with social security numbers for all residents in the household
2. Bills which you are requesting assistance with

(most recent)

3. Rent receipt or mortgage payment book
4. Receipts or cancelled checks from at least the last 30 days showing how you have spent your money
5. Proof of income, including pay stubs, payroll statement from employer, Certificate of Action from caseworker (if receiving TANF and/or Food Stamps), court order for child support, etc.

The township may require additional documentation depending on your specific situation.

## What determines residency in a township?

An individual is a "resident" of a township if the individual has located in the township, and shows an intention to make the township their sole place of residence.

## What is expected of me as an applicant?

There are three major requirements to be met before a determination of eligibility can be made:

### 1. Work Requirement

By law, the trustee must require any able-bodied, unemployed member of an applicant's household to seek and accept employment, unless:

- a. Disabled;
- b. Under age 18, or over age 65;
- c. Needed to care for another person;
- d. There is no work assignment available;
- e. Employed full-time;
- f. Employment would violate fair labor standards or the law

The trustee may require proof of your inability to work, such as a doctor's statement. If you are granted assistance by the township, are unemployed but able to work, you may be assigned to a workfare job. The work you perform, as directed by the township, will help pay for the aid you get. For many, workfare has been a major step on the road to a job in the private sector.

## 2. Other Self-Help Requirements

All members of an applicant's household are required to apply for other forms of aid if it might help the household meet basic needs. Examples of other forms of assistance are:

- a. Food Stamps
- b. TANF
- c. Social Security
- d. Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- e. Medicare
- f. Medicaid
- g. Veteran's Benefits
- h. Unemployment
- i. Child Support

## 3. Cooperation

Applicants for township assistance must cooperate with the trustee's office in providing necessary information, documents and signatures. Failure to cooperate with the trustee could result in denial or termination of assistance.

## What happens after the application?

Once a completed application is received by the township, the application is reviewed by the trustee and/or staff. In some situations, it will be necessary to make a home visit.

1. Non-emergency requests for assistance will be acted upon within 72 hours, excluding weekends and holidays
2. Emergency requests (such as food or medicine) will be acted upon promptly
3. An action of "Pending" may exceed 72 hours, but the township must provide a statement listing the specific reasons for the action

## What if the trustee denies all or part of my request for assistance?

The township is required to provide you with a *No-*

*tice of Action* in writing, by mail or in person. This will include the following information:

1. The type and amount of assistance granted;
2. The type and amount of assistance denied or partially granted;
3. Specific reasons for denying all or part of the assistance requested; and
4. Information advising the applicant of the right to appeal the township's decision to the County Board of Commissioners, along with appeal procedures.

## How does the township trustee provide aid?

The trustee issues vouchers, never cash, to pay for the goods and services which they provide for eligible applicants. A voucher is not money, but is a written promise that the trustee will pay money to the company or person who provides the aid. For instance, if you need food, the trustee may give you a voucher to take to a grocery store. The voucher is good for the amount stated on the voucher, and only if you take it to the store specified on the voucher. The grocery takes the voucher in exchange for the food you select. You will receive no change if you use less than the full amount of your voucher. Then the store turns the voucher back in to the trustee, who is required to pay the store the amount of the voucher within 45 days.

## How do I find out more about my township's application standards and eligibility for assistance?

Each township is required to adopt a set of standards, based on Indiana law, which are available for anyone to see at the township trustee's office. The laws governing township assistance administration can be found in Indiana Code Title 12, Article 20 (IC 12-20).

A public service of. . .  
**Bloomfield Township Trustee**  
**LaGrange County, Indiana**

# Township Assistance



**"Serving Your  
Needs With Dignity  
and Respect"**

Wm. Bill Pipher  
Bloomfield Township Trustee  
818 N. Detroit Street  
LaGrange, IN 46761  
(260) 463-3411

[trustee@bloomfieldtownship.org](mailto:trustee@bloomfieldtownship.org)

A public service of. . .  
**Bloomfield Township Trustee**  
**LaGrange County, Indiana**



	Office Address	Office (Public) Phone	Fax	Home (non-public) Phone	Cell (non-public) Phone	Email
<b>Bloomfield</b>	Bill Pipher 818 N. Detroit St. LaGrange, IN 46761	(260) 463-3411	(260) 463-3476	(260) 463-3461		trustee@bloomfieldtownship.org
<b>Clay</b>	Bill Connelly 1090 S 00 EW LaGrange, IN 46761	(260) 463-2750	(260) 463-2734			wfconnelly.44.2@gmail.com
<b>Clearspring</b>	Melisa Lewton 2360 S 250 W LaGrange, IN 46761	(260) 463-5212				melisalewton@yahoo.com
<b>Eden</b>	Staci Smith  Topeka, IN 46571					edentownship@yahoo.com
<b>Greenfield</b>	Arlis Boggs 5400 N SR 3 Howe, IN 46746	(260) 562-3041				
<b>Johnson</b>	John Russell 7735 S 178 E Wolcottville, IN 46795	(260) 854-2160	(260) 854-2670			johnsontwptrustee@embarqmail.com
<b>Lima</b>	Kirby Glick 0175 W SR 120 Box 296 Howe, IN 46746	(260) 562-2042		(260) 562-3065		limatrustee@gmail.com
<b>Milford</b>	Bruce Bowman 6465 S SR 3 Wolcottville, IN 46795	(260) 351-9103		(260) 351-2011		bowmanbk46795@yahoo.com
<b>Newbury</b>	Brandie Fitch 365 Main St. Box 184 Shipshewana, IN 46565	(260) 768-7330				newburytownshiptrustee@gmail.com
<b>Springfield</b>	Deb Notestine 0805 S SR 3 LaGrange, IN 46761	(260) 367-2124				sprtwplagco@gmail.com
<b>Van Buren</b>	Lynn Conklin 9040 W 750 N Shipshewana, IN 46565	(260) 768-3098		(260) 468-4047		Erma_L_Conklin@yahoo.com



LAGRANGE COUNTY

# MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

Nonperishable food box and frozen items available  
once per household, every 30 days at locations  
throughout the county

**Thursday, April 27th 11 AM - 1 PM**  
**Topeka, IN Fire Department Parking Lot**

Applicants will need their photo ID & current piece of mail or lease with  
LaGrange Co. address & others in the home must provide Social Security  
card, birth certificate or passport/Photo ID



LAGRANGE COUNTY

## MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

Nonperishable food box and frozen items available  
once per household, every 30 days at locations  
throughout the county

**Thursday, May 25th 11 AM - 1 PM**  
**LaGrange Town Hall Parking Lot**

Applicants will need their photo ID & current piece of  
mail or lease with LaGrange Co. address & others in the  
home must provide Social Security card, birth certificate  
or passport/Photo ID

**Call The Salvation Army 574-970-0088 with any questions**





# Ribbon walk

Supporting Local Families Dealing with Cancer

Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana

## Saturday, May 6, 2023

Donate & Register Online: [give.cancer-services.org/ribbonwalk2023](https://give.cancer-services.org/ribbonwalk2023)

A fundraiser for Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana  
to recognize a loved one touched by cancer.



**Please join us for a fun and family friendly  
event at Cancer Services**

**Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana  
6316 Mutual Dr., Fort Wayne, IN 46825**

**9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

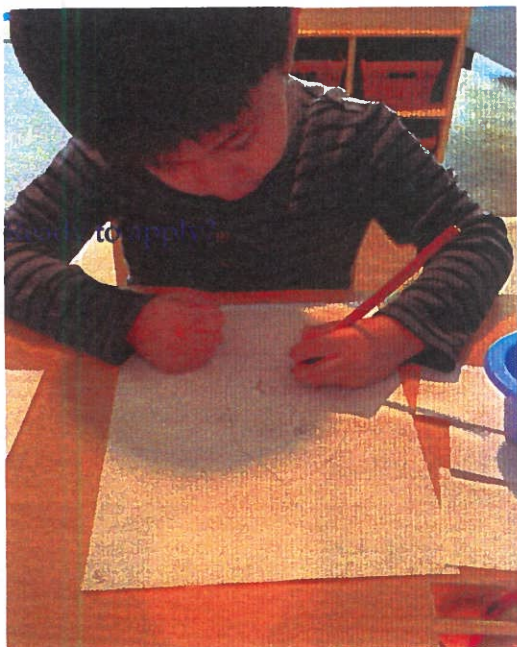
**Raise \$35 or more by May 1 to receive a commemorative t-shirt.**



Face masks and social distancing are strongly encourage at the event. Hand sanitizer will be available for use.



For more information contact **Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana** (260) 484-9560  
6316 Mutual Drive • Fort Wayne, IN 46825 or visit our website at: [www.cancer-services.org](https://www.cancer-services.org)



Ready to apply?



Apply On-Line  
 @ [fcs.k12.in.us/head-start](https://fcs.k12.in.us/head-start)  
 or  
 Give us a call @ 260-495-4775  
 or  
 800-551-9819

**Head Start is a Federally funded program that promotes school readiness for children from low-income families by enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development. Head Start programs provide a learning environment that supports children's growth in many areas such as language, literacy, and social and emotional development. Head Start emphasizes the role of parents as their child's first and most important teacher. These programs help build relationships with families that support family well-being and many other important areas.**



## **FCS/Head Start**

**Providing children and families the knowledge and skills to be successful.**



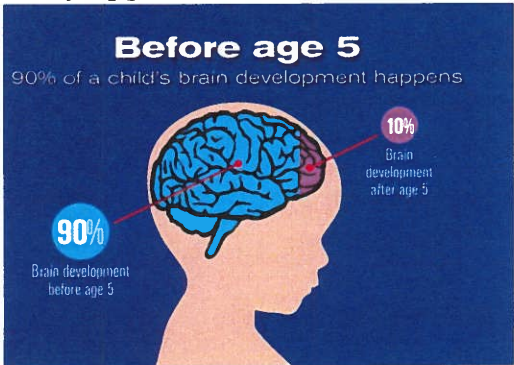
# Inside our school.....

At Fremont, we have two licensed classrooms located within the Fremont Elementary School.

At Angola, we have four licensed classrooms, located by Carlin Park School.

At Lagrange, we have two licensed classrooms, located by the Lagrange Hospital.

Classrooms & curriculum are designed to support the unique growth and development of preschool-aged children. Our education teach strives to bring learning outdoors and nature into the classroom through the study approach.



We use research-based practices when creating a day of joyful learning for your child.

“I love it here,  
there are books, so  
many books and  
friends, so many  
friends.”  
-Seth, Age 4



## 2023 Family Income Guidelines

<u>Size of Family Unit</u>	<u>Income</u>
2	\$19,720 – \$25,636
3	\$24,860 - \$32,318
4	\$30,000- \$39,000

For Family units with more than 6 members, add \$5,140 for each additional member.

Qualifying children must be 3 years old by August 1, 2023.

- FCS/Main Office  
1100 West Toledo Street,  
Fremont IN 46737  
260-495-4775  
800-551-9819
- Fremont Center  
260-527-0021
- Angola Center  
260-665-5036
- LaGrange Center  
260-463-2363