



Hello,

Welcome to the 53rd edition of our 211 newsletter, where we share information on 211 services and benefits, funding updates, and opportunities for you to become an advocate for 211.



## Need Help Paying Your Rent?

Lake County renters who faced financial hardship from the pandemic may apply for the Lake County Rental Assistance (LCRA) Program, which provides financial assistance to individuals to help pay rent. The application period runs through April 14, 2023.

Eligible households may receive up to six months of assistance with rent. This can include up to one month of future rent. Households that have received more than six months of total assistance from programs like the Federal Emergency Rental Assistance (FERA) Program and LCRA Program will not be eligible.

To qualify for help, residents must:

- Pay rent in Lake County, Illinois.
- Have a financial hardship from the pandemic.
- Be at risk of homelessness or housing instability.
- Be at least one month in arrears (behind in your rent).
- Meet income guidelines based on household size.
- Have not received six or more months of assistance from past programs such as the FERA and LCRA Programs.
- Provide appropriate documentation.

Examples of financial hardship from the pandemic include job loss or furlough, and unexpected medical or other expenses.

Examples of what counts as being at risk of homelessness or housing instability include having a past due rent or utility bill, receiving an eviction notice, having had to move in temporarily with another household because you couldn't afford your rent, spending a high proportion of your income on housing costs and more.

To learn more about who is eligible and to apply, visit [lakecountyil.gov/renthelp](https://lakecountyil.gov/renthelp).

If you have questions or need help filling out the application, call **211** or text your zip code to **898-211** to get connected to someone who can guide you.



## Problem Gambling: Help is Available

March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month (PGAM) and a time to increase public awareness of problem gambling, and the availability of prevention, treatment and recovery services. This year marks the 20th anniversary of PGAM, which is designed to coincide each year with March Madness when Americans are expected to wager more than \$3 billion. For many adults, gambling can be a fun and entertaining experience, but there are risks involved. Sports bettors are at particularly high risk for developing a gambling problem.

Problem gambling is defined as all gambling behavior patterns that are disruptive or damaging to you or your family, or interferes with your daily life. The symptoms include:

- Increasing preoccupation with gambling
- A need to bet more money more frequently
- Restlessness or irritability when attempting to stop
- “Chasing” losses
- Loss of control

United Way of Lake County’s 211 is a free, confidential, 24/7 information and referral helpline for a wide range of health and human services, including problem gambling. 211 expert navigators are trained specialists who will listen, identify underlying problems, and connect people in need to available support and resources. For example, **Nicasa** provides counseling for problem gambling, including individual, family, group and tele-counseling, access to 12-step support, and assistance signing up for Voluntary Self-Exclusion Program. Help spread the word that resources are available with a simple call or text.

# Charla con el



PRESENTADO POR  
SARA MARTINEZ



## 'Charla con el 211' Returns

Earlier this month, we launched the third season of our talk show series Charla con el 211, featuring our 211 Ambassador Sara Martinez and radio host Jose Rodriguez. The series is broadcast on TUDN Radio WKRS 1220-AM and is livestreamed on Facebook. Sara's first guest was Jessica Lomelin from A Safe Place Lake County talking about human trafficking: what it is, why it's so prevalent, how we as a community can help increase awareness, and the support and resources that are available.

**In case you missed it, you can watch the episode here:** <https://fb.watch/jyQvdQPdvz/>

If you or someone you care about is in danger, always call 911. The Illinois Human Trafficking Hotline is available 24/7 at 888-373-7888 or contact A Safe Place Lake County's Crisis Center at 800-600-7233 or 847-249-4450.

To get connected to local support and resources or if you don't know where to turn, United Way of Lake County's 211 is here to help. Dial 2-1-1 now or text your zip code to 898-211 to speak with a caring local expert who will guide you to support and resources. 211 is free and available 24/7 in your language. Calls to 211 are completely confidential and can be anonymous.

**Next up:** Tune in to 1220-AM on **Tuesday, April 8 at 9:00 a.m.** for the next episode of Charla con el 211 when Sara will be joined by Jacqueline Herrera Giron of the Lake County State's Attorney's Office talking about crime victims' rights, or watch it LIVE on our **Facebook page!** Listen for our Spanish 211 radio ads on 1220-AM, too.



## Look Up! Have You Seen the Signs?

Thanks to a generous grant from the Outdoor Advertising Association of Illinois, we are once again advertising 211 on billboards throughout Lake County. Earlier this month, fifteen billboards were installed across the county, including locations in Antioch, Fox Lake, Gurnee, Lake Villa, Mundelein, North Chicago, Wauconda and Waukegan. Our goal is to continue to increase awareness of 211 so that everyone in Lake County who needs help gets connected to available resources. Let us know if you have seen the signs!



## Expanding Our Network of Local 211 Ambassadors

We continue to focus our 211 community outreach efforts to grow awareness and use of 211 across Lake County. Earlier this month, Community Action Partnership and Waukegan Township organized a 211 Ambassador breakfast in downtown Waukegan with members of the faith community. Thank you to Director Mary Lockhart White and Supervisor Marc L. Jones for providing a platform to share information about 211's services, engage with local faith leaders, brainstorm ways to inform the community of faith members about 211's services, and expand the network of 211 ambassadors willing to share with others how 211 helps people to connect with local health and human services.

## Our Community of 211 Donors

Thank you to our community partners and many individuals for their generous financial support to help us sustain 211 for Lake County. [View our list of funding partners here.](#)

## How can you help?

1. Share this email and encourage your network to **opt-in to 211 communications**.
2. **Help sustain 211 with an online donation**.
3. Follow United Way of Lake County on social media to receive timelier 211 updates.



Best regards,

**Deanna Olmem**

Manager, 211 and Safe & Stable Families