



Hello,

Welcome to the 78th edition of our 211 newsletter—your source for updates on services, impact, and ways to help more people connect to the support they need.

Why Your Organization Should Be Part of the 211 Network

Whether you serve one community or the entire county, joining United Way of Lake County's 211 database ensures your services are accessible when people need them most.

In moments of crisis or uncertainty, people often don't know where to turn. By joining the 211 network, your organization becomes part of a trusted resource that connects community members to support—quickly, confidentially, and in multiple languages.

Why Partnering with 211 Matters

A CENTRALIZED SOLUTION THAT WORKS

211 already has the infrastructure, staff, and reach to maintain a comprehensive, county-wide database of health and human services. Partnering with 211 gives you access to:

- A **trauma-informed team of navigators** who connect people to your services
- A **trusted platform** used by frontline staff, agencies, and the public
- **Real-time referrals** from people actively seeking help
- A **multilingual** solution that removes the language barrier

REACH THE PEOPLE WHO NEED YOU

Joining 211 helps ensure your services are easy to find when they're needed most. As demand grows across Lake County, we can only meet it through strong partnerships.

211 SERVES THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

211 connects hundreds of service providers across all sectors. It's a one-stop entry point for anyone seeking help—and for those helping others, including social workers, school staff, and emergency responders.

Being in the 211 database makes your services more visible, more accessible, and more impactful. Together, we can make sure no one in our community faces challenges alone.

Want to join the 211 database or update your program listing?

Contact 211LakeCounty@icfs.org.

Resource Spotlight: Food

Did you know 211 Lake County has over **40 food pantry listings** across the area? Visit 211LakeCounty.org, click the **food icon**, and select "**Food Pantries**" to get started. Need help? Call 211. Our expert navigators are multiple languages.

Free Summer Meals for Kids and Teens

USDA's **Summer Meal Site Finder** makes it easy for families to locate **free meals** across Lake County: [Find a Free Lunch Site Near You](#)

Many sites are open to all youth, 18 and under. Some local options include:

- **Waukegan Public Library:** Free boxed lunches, Mon–Fri, June 3–August 2
- **Fox Lake District Library:** Lunch and a movie, Mon & Wed, June 2–August 13
- **Zion-Benton Public Library:** Cold lunch service, Mon–Thu, June 9–August 14
- **Waukegan Housing Authority – The Bluffs:** Walk-up meals, Mon–Thu, June 4–August 7

Want to Be Featured in Our Next 211 Spotlight?

We want to highlight the incredible work of our 211 partners across Lake County! In future editions of our newsletter, we'll feature local organizations and programs that are part of the 211 database. This is a great opportunity to showcase the services you offer, share impact stories, and help more community members connect with your support.

If your organization is interested in being featured, please email us at 211LakeCounty@uwlakeco.org with a brief note about your work and what you'd like to highlight. Let's shine a light on the amazing work happening in our community!

211 in the Community: Outreach & Training Highlights

Connecting Job Seekers to Support

211 Lake County recently participated in job fairs hosted by the Lake County Job Center and Workforce Development. We partnered with local organizations to connect job seekers not only to employment opportunities, but also to essential wraparound services like transportation, healthcare, and food—helping remove barriers to success.

Engaging with Older Adults and Caregivers

At the Patricia Jones Center, our team led trainings with Spanish-speaking seniors, grandparents raising grandchildren, and the Waukegan Township Advisory Council. These sessions opened space for meaningful dialogue, addressed specific needs, and shared data on top community challenges.

Through outreach and education, 211 continues to build trust and strengthen access to services across Lake County.

Partner Highlight: North Shore Gas

Congratulations to North Shore Gas on 125 years of service to our communities! This milestone reflects their long-standing commitment not only to energy innovation, but also to the well-being of the people and neighborhoods they serve.

At United Way of Lake County, we're especially grateful for North Shore Gas' strong and ongoing support of our 211 helpline. Their partnership helps ensure that Lake County community members can access critical health and human services 24/7 by simply dialing 2-1-1 or visiting 211LakeCounty.org.

We're also thankful for the many North Shore Gas employees who generously give their time and resources to support local programs and strengthen our community. Thank you, North Shore Gas, for being a true community partner.

Help Us Keep 211 Information Current

Accurate listings help community members find the services they need—and ensure your programs reach those who need them most. We rely on our partner agencies to keep their 211 profiles up to date.

If you've recently:

- Added a new program
- Changed office hours or locations
- Updated eligibility or contact info
- Discontinued a service

Please review and **submit updates to 211LakeCounty@icfs.org**.

Thank you for helping us keep Lake County connected to vital resources!

Need Training or Materials?

We can provide 211 training and promotional materials for your organization! To schedule a training session, contact us at 211LakeCounty@uwlakeco.org.

You can easily **order free printed materials**—like bilingual rack cards, wallet cards, posters, and table tents—through our online 211 toolkit. The toolkit also offers **downloadable resources**, including multilingual videos, flyers, graphics, and more.

Visit our **211 toolkit** to explore available materials and place your order. Thank you for helping us spread the word so that more people can find the support they need!

Get 211 Materials

Promote Your Event on the 211 Website

Nonprofits serving Lake County are invited to submit upcoming community events for promotion on the 211 website. Please email event details to 211LakeCounty@uwlakeco.org.

How to Support 211

1. **Spread the Word:** Share this email and invite your network to [sign up for 211 updates](#).
2. **Donate:** Make an [online gift](#) to help connect more people to essential services.
3. **Stay Connected:** Follow us on social media and help amplify our message.



Best regards,

United Way of Lake County's 211 team

Welcome New Subscribers

A big welcome to our new subscribers this month!
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