



Hello,

Welcome to the 87th edition of our 211 newsletter—your source for updates on services, impact, and ways to help more people connect to the support they need.

Staying Connected to Local Support

Many families in our community are experiencing uncertainty right now, and trusted local organizations remain committed to making sure residents can access accurate information, resources, and support.

Lake County's network of community partners, including nonprofits, schools, healthcare providers, legal advocates, and local government, continues to work together to help residents stay safe and connected to services. Even during challenging times, this local safety net remains strong and focused on protecting the well-being of our community.

Organizations such as **HACES** (Hispanic American Community Education and Services) offer helpful guidance and multilingual resources to help individuals understand their rights and prepare for different situations: <https://haces.org/kyr/>

Anyone who needs help connecting to local services can contact 211 anytime by calling **211**, texting your zip code to **898-211**, or visiting 211LakeCounty.org.

Raising Awareness for Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is **Child Abuse Prevention Month**, and the Lake County Children's Advocacy Center is raising awareness through its **Blue Kids campaign**.

Blue Kids works with schools, businesses, and community partners across Lake County to promote the safety and well-being of children by increasing awareness, engaging youth, and encouraging education around child abuse prevention.

By helping people recognize the importance of prevention and early support, the campaign plays an important role in building a safer community for children and families.

Learn more about the Blue Kids campaign and how to get involved:

friendsoflccac.org/blue-kids

March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month

March is **Problem Gambling Awareness Month**, a time to raise awareness about the signs of problem gambling and the resources available for those who may need support. Problem gambling can affect a person's financial stability, mental health, relationships, and overall well-being. In Illinois, hundreds of thousands of adults are estimated to have a gambling problem or be at risk.

Additional resources include:

- **Illinois Helpline for Problem Gambling**: Call **1-800-GAMBLER** or text **GAMB** to **833234** for confidential support and referrals.
- **NICASA Behavioral Health Services**: Provides counseling, financial assistance, and other support for residents facing gambling-related challenges.

If you or someone you know may be struggling, support is available. Call **211**, text your zip code to **898-211**, or visit 211LakeCounty.org to connect with local help.

SNAP Benefit Updates: Local Help Is Available

Recent changes to SNAP work requirements may affect eligibility for some individuals and families. New federal rules expanded requirements to additional groups, including some adults ages 55–64, veterans, individuals experiencing homelessness, and people with older children at home. [Learn more on the Illinois Department of Human Services website.](#)

Local organizations can help residents understand the changes, check eligibility, and apply for benefits.

[Community Action Partnership of Lake County](#) provides assistance with SNAP applications and other programs that support food security and financial stability.

[The Northern Illinois Food Bank](#) provides assistance with SNAP applications and can help residents understand eligibility and reporting requirements.

For help, call **211**, text your zip code to **898-211**, or visit 211LakeCounty.org to connect with local resources.

211 Outreach and Training Highlights

211 Lake County joined [Roberti Community House](#), the [National Kidney Foundation of Illinois](#), and many other community partners on March 12, 2026, for a World Kidney Day screening event in North Chicago. More than 200 screenings were completed, and 211 was there to help connect residents to follow-up care and local resources while they received free kidney and diabetes checks, vision and hearing screenings, vaccines, yoga demonstrations, produce giveaways, and more.

Events like this highlight the power of organizations working together to support community health and ensure residents can access the care and services they need.

211 Lake County also collaborated with [Rosalind Franklin University](#) on March 10, 2026, during the Meet Our Community event. This opportunity allowed us to connect with future healthcare providers and share insight into the real challenges many residents face, including barriers to access, identity, privilege, and racism.

Conversations like these help build greater understanding and support more compassionate, community-centered care across Lake County.

To date in FY2026, **13,180** community contacts have been made through outreach and engagement, and **688** individuals have been trained to use 211 resources.

Action Requested: Keep Your 211 Listing Current

Accurate 211 listings help ensure community members can connect to the services they need. When program details are out of date, residents may not be able to find or access available support.

If your organization has updated programs, hours, locations, eligibility, or contact information, please send changes to: 211LakeCounty@icfs.org

Thank you for helping us keep Lake County's resource network accurate, reliable, and accessible.

Reminders for Community Partners

Request Training or Materials

We offer free 211 trainings and promotional materials—including bilingual rack cards, wallet cards, posters, table tents, downloadable flyers, graphics, and more. Contact 211LakeCounty@uwlakeco.org or visit our [online toolkit](#) to order materials.

Share Your Community Events

Nonprofits serving Lake County can submit upcoming events for promotion on the 211 website. Email event details to 211LakeCounty@uwlakeco.org.

How to Support 211

Spread the Word: Share this email and invite your network to [sign up for 211 updates](#).

Donate: Make an [online gift](#) to help connect more people to essential services.

Stay Connected: Follow us on social media and help amplify our message.



Best regards,

United Way of Lake United County's 211 team

Welcome New Subscribers

A big welcome to our new subscribers this month!
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