

# How to apply for DHS food, childcare, cash assistance from home

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Oregonians are facing unprecedented economic instability and food insecurity. As Oregon continues to maintain physical distancing rules, the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) wants to remind you that you can apply for food, cash and childcare assistance from home.

While many DHS offices are still open to the public, members of the public are encouraged to apply online at [govstatus.egov.com/or-dhs-benefits](http://govstatus.egov.com/or-dhs-benefits).

The online application does experience heavy traffic from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., which causes it to be unavailable intermittently.

Try use the online application in the early morning or late evening hours.

If you are not able to access the online application, call your local DHS office, which can email or mail an application. You can also apply for benefits over the phone.

Most assistance provided by DHS can be completed without visiting an office in person.

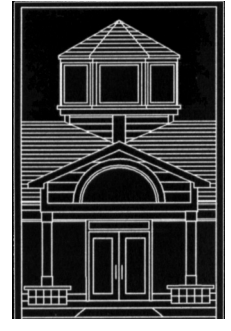
For those needing to visit an office in person, call first. Offices have implemented physical distancing measures and may be able to help by phone.

To find your local office, childcare providers or food pantries, contact 211info:

- By calling 2-1-1 from any phone
- Text your zip code to 898211
- By email at [help@211info.org](mailto:help@211info.org)
- 211info.org

Find other food resources at [oregonhunger.org/covid-19](http://oregonhunger.org/covid-19).

## Library Tidings



### News about the Siuslaw Public Library

**Library Tidings, a regular feature of the Siuslaw News, features news about upcoming Siuslaw Public Library programs for adults and children, new books and videos, and other library news of interest to the community.**

**Library Tidings by Kevin Mittge**

**Book Review**  
**“The Prized Girl” by Amy K. Green**

From debut author Amy K. Green comes a devastating psychological thriller: a teen pageant queen is murdered in a seemingly idyllic New England town and her sister’s search for answers unearths much more than she bargained for.

When Jenny is found murdered, her parents grieve the loss alongside the residents of their picture-perfect small town.

At first glance, Jenny’s tragic death appears cut-and-dried for investigators. The most obvious suspect is one of her fans, an older man who had gotten too close for comfort, but Jenny’s half sister, Virginia — the sarcastic black sheep of the family — isn’t so sure. Virginia, still living in town and haunted by her own troubled teenage years, suspects that a similar darkness lies beneath the sparkling veneer of Jenny’s life.

Alternating between Jenny’s final days and Virginia’s determined search for the truth, the sisters’ dual narratives follow a harrowing trail of suspects, with surprising turns that race toward a shocking finale.

Infused with dark humor and drive by two captivat-

ing young women, Green’s dazzling “The Prized Girl” tells a heartbreaking story of missed connections, a complicated family and a town’s disturbing secrets.

**RB Digital**

We have just added a new service that’s free with your library card: RB Digital. They have more than 3,000 titles, including weekly and monthly magazines to read on your device, coloring books you can print at home and more.

Create your free account and start reading today! A link can be found on the library’s webpage at [www.siuslawlibrary.info](http://www.siuslawlibrary.info).

The magazines range from The New Yorker, to Ok! Magazine, to Prevention, to Food Network, and Kiplinger’s Personal Finance. If you want to practice foreign language reading skills, check out magazines such as L’Express or Stern!

**Siuslaw Reading Challenge Modified**

We are modifying this year’s challenge, due to the library’s closure. You only have to get 10 punches on your entry card for the year (not all 12), and you can decide which months to skip.

This month’s theme are books in translation.

So look for all those great books by non-English writing authors, ranging from Elena Ferrante’s “Neapolitan Quartet,” to Scandinavian mysteries by Jo Nesbø or Henning Mankell, to Gabriel García Márquez’s magical realism, and to the wonderful works of Haruki Murakami.

There are lots of wonderful international authors you might want to explore. For more information about the reading challenge and the monthly themes be sure to check [www.siuslawlibrary.info/reading-challenge](http://www.siuslawlibrary.info/reading-challenge).

**Literary Podcast of the Week**

Do you enjoy hearing stories read to you? If so, here are several podcasts you might like. “The Writer’s Voice,” which features New Yorker fiction writers reading their own stories. A weekly podcast, it has featured Karen Russell, Lauren Groff, Zadie Smith, George Saunders and Ann Enright, among many. “The Other Stories” are for those who enjoy horror, science fiction, and thrillers featuring stories about the strange and scary. Finally, check out “LeVar Burton Reads” to listen to the best short fiction, handpicked by the best voice in podcasting.

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During these uncertain times, we are accessible by phone, email and by appointment only. We are conducting business as safely as possible for our clients as well as our staff.

541-997-7653  
[Jim\\_hoberg@hotmail.com](mailto:Jim_hoberg@hotmail.com)

## Commission launches survey to hear what residents think about their telecommunications service

The Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC) has launched a survey to learn what Oregon residents think of their telecommunications services. Tele-

phone and cellular service residential customers are encouraged to take this survey to provide input about the quality of service received and whether there is access to appropriate telecommunications services for individuals and communities to thrive.

To take the survey, visit: <https://arcg.is/1CHbz>.

“The survey is intended to provide a voice to our Oregon residents using telephone and cell services,” said Megan Decker, PUC Chair. “The results will help inform a report that is due to the Oregon State Legislature as part of our investigation required by House Bill 3065.”

HB 3065, which passed in the 2019 Legislative ses-

sion, directed the PUC to establish a public process to investigate the continuing relevance of the “carrier of last resort” or COLR obligation on the state’s telecommunications providers given the recent changes in technology and policy in the industry. The COLR obligation requires telephone companies to provide access to telephone service in their designated service territory without discrimination.

The PUC is hosting a webinar on May 28 and a conference call on June 9 to provide an opportunity for the public to comment directly to the Commissioners about their telecommunications service.

Learn more about these

public comment meetings or about the PUC’s COLR investigation at [www.oregon.gov/puc/utilities/Pages/Telecom-Carrier-of-Last-Resort.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/puc/utilities/Pages/Telecom-Carrier-of-Last-Resort.aspx).

The Oregon PUC regulates customer rates and services of the state’s investor-owned electric, natural gas and telephone utilities, as well as select water companies.

The PUC mission is to ensure Oregon utility customers have access to safe, reliable, and high-quality utility services at just and reasonable rates, which is accomplished through thorough analysis and independent decision-making conducted in an open and fair process.

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