



Turning Over Stones

Your guide to
local supports
that work for
you.

Looking to make some positive changes in your life?

This guide provides useful resources pertaining to utility assistance, home energy programs, financial literacy, backpacks for children and more.

To connect with local community, social, government and health resources and services, call 2-1-1 or visit 211Ontario.ca.



Utilities - Electricity Relief:



Westario: Will pay up to \$500.00 every 12 months on an electricity bill. If you heat with electricity, it is \$600.00. Funds are limited. Call 211 to register and check availability.

LEAP-Hydro One: Will pay up to \$500.00 every 12 months on an electricity bill. If you heat with electricity, it is \$600.00. Call 1-855-487-5327 to register.

Ontario Energy Support Program: O.E.S.P.: Low income households can now receive a monthly credit on their Hydro Bill of at least \$35.00. The credit will continue for 2 to 5 years, depending on income and age. To apply online, visit: <https://ontarioelectricitysupport.ca>. The United Way of Bruce Grey can also assist you with the application process. To find out more, call 519-376-1560.

Utilities - Natural Gas:



LEAP: Enbridge: Will pay up to \$500.00 every 12 months against an Enbridge bill. Call 1-855-487-5327 to apply.

United Way Utility Relief Fund:



Utility Relief Fund: The United Way of Bruce Grey fundraises for this program and through donor support can pay up to \$600.00 every 12 months for heating including wood, oil and propane. Call 211 to apply.

Home Energy Programs:



GreenSaver - SaveOnEnergy: Offers three programs including the Energy Affordability Program, the Home Winterproofing Program and the Canada Greener Homes Grant. Heating and cooling incentives for homeowners and renters in social housing may also be eligible. Offers savings on air conditioning, heating and other upgrades. For information, visit GreenSaver.org or call 1-888-855-3106.

Enbridge: Home Winterproofing Program: The program can help you lower your natural gas bill and make your home more comfortable. If your household income levels qualify, you may receive free insulation, draft proofing and a smart thermostat to reduce energy costs. Apply online at <https://enbridgesmartsavings.com/Rebates-and-Programs/Home-Winterproofing-Program>

Home Repairs & Upgrades:



Ontario Renovates: Both Grey County and Bruce County offer grants to help with major critical home repairs and/or renovations such as roofing, heating, plumbing, etc to help low to medium income homeowners repair and improve their homes. Renovations that improve accessibility in the home may also be considered. To be eligible, in Grey County, applicants must have a household income at or below \$43,000, have less than \$30,000 in assets and own a home below the county average. In Bruce County, applicants must have a household income below \$75,000 and own a home with an assessed market value of less than \$340,000. Applications for the program may be accessed on the individual county websites. For more information, contact Grey County at 519-376-5744 ext. 1305 and Bruce County at 1-800-265-3022.

Grey County Sustainable Housing Benefit:

Grey County offers a grant to help with maintaining or obtaining housing. SHB can cover rental/utility arrears, last month's rent, and some limited crisis repairs to life systems such as heat, and water. Extenuating circumstances are considered for victims or domestic violence or human trafficking as well as severe medical needs. For more information, call 519-376-5744.



Bruce County Housing Stability Fund:

This grant helps people to maintain their housing by providing funding for rent arrears, utility arrears, etc. For more information, call 1-800-265-3022.



United Way Financial Literacy Program:



United Way of Bruce Grey Financial Literacy Program: Looking to improve your financial health? Our Financial Literacy Program is free, confidential and offers a variety of services including basic budgeting, referrals to bankruptcy consultants and some credit counselling. For information, call 519-376-1560 or email advice@unitedwaybg.com.

Income Tax Clinics:



Free Income Tax Preparation: If your income is below certain guidelines you can visit any of many Free Tax Preparation Clinics in Grey Bruce. Filing Income Tax Returns offers many other benefits. Call 211 to find an office near you.

Legal Services:



Grey Bruce Legal Clinic: Offers free legal services to low income residents of Grey-Bruce including assistance with housing law, domestic violence, criminal and family law, etc. For information, visit gblegalclinic.com or call 519-370-2200 / toll free at 1-877-832-1435.

Support for Children:



United Way of Bruce Grey Backpack Program: Provides a fully stocked backpack to children of low income families (from kindergarten through highschool). To apply, call 211. For assistance after September 1st, call the United Way office at 519-376-1560.

Support for Newcomers:



YMCA Owen Sound Grey Bruce - Settlement Services: Offers support to newcomers in Grey and Bruce Counties including one-on-one support, English language and citizen classes and newcomer employment support. Call 519-371-9224 or contact settlement@osgb.ymca.ca.

Welcoming Communities Grey Bruce: A not-for-profit organization committed to building a welcoming and inclusive community for all. Offers support, educational opportunities and resources to newcomers. Visit WelcomingGreyBruce.ca or email info@welcominggreybruce.ca.

Employment:



YMCA Owen Sound Grey Bruce - Employment Services: Provides job search support, skill building workshops and online job board. Visit: ymcaowensound.on.ca/employment or call 519-371-9222, ext 6 or toll free at 1-800-265-3711.



Life can be unpredictable and can present some tough twists and turns along the way. If you are facing challenges in your life and want to make some positive changes, we encourage you take that first step and turn over that first stone. Small changes made now can help guide you to a happier, more fulfilling life.



A great place to start is by calling or texting 211. 211 can connect you with resources and resources near you. The service is free, confidential and available 24/7 in 150+ languages. You can also visit 211Ontario.ca for more information.

Don't delay - call today!



United Way
Bruce Grey
Change starts here

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