

Turning Over Stones

*YOUR GUIDE TO LOCAL SUPPORTS
THAT WORK FOR YOU*

Do you want to take the first step toward a better life?

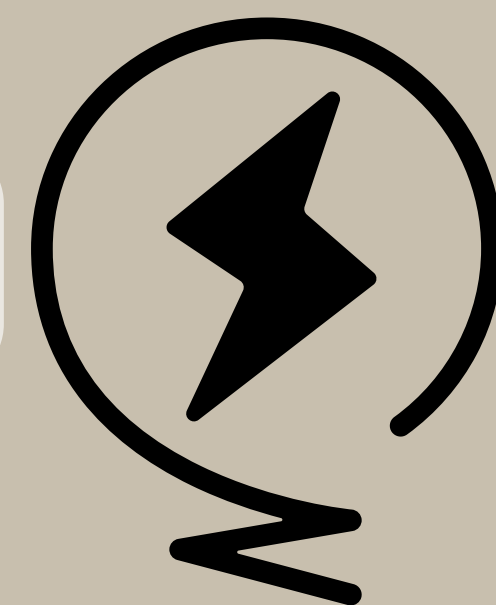
This guide is here to help you with practical resources that cover utility assistance, home energy programs, financial literacy, backpacks for children, and more. By connecting with local organizations and services, such as social, government, and health resources, you can greatly improve your quality of life.

To find local community resources, social services, government assistance, and health services, simply call 2-1-1 or check out informationbrucegrey.ca.

We are here to support you on your journey toward positive changes!



Utility Arrears: Electricity Relief



Westario

Westario Power will assist with \$500 once every 12 months on an electricity bill. Contact Bruce County Housing first (1-800-265-3022). If their funds are exhausted then contact 211.

LEAP-Hydro One

LEAP will pay up to \$500 every 12 months on electricity bills if you heat with gas, propane, or oil. If you heat with electricity, LEAP will provide \$600. Call 1-800-487-5327 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.

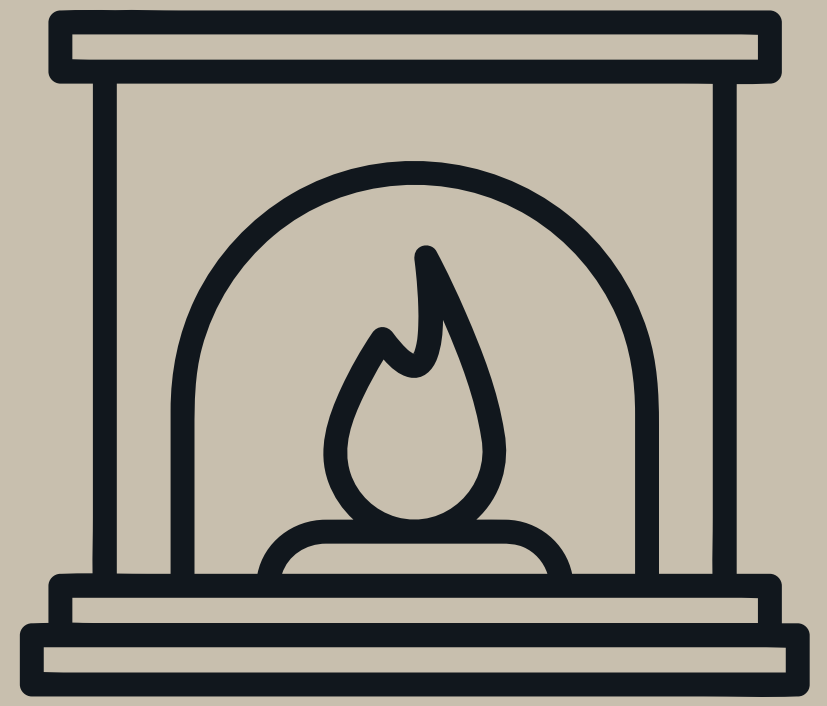
Utility Arrears: Natural Gas



LEAP: Enbridge

Through this program, they will pay up to \$500 every 12 months against an Enbridge Bill. Call 1-855-487-5327 to apply.

United Way Bruce Grey's Utility Assistance Program



Utility Assistance Program

United Way Bruce Grey provides this support through generous donors in our community. It will pay up to \$700 every 12 months for heating including wood, oil, or propane. Please call 211 to apply.

Home Energy Programs



GreenSaver- SaveOnEnergy.

This program helps by offering 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 of 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.

Financial Literacy



United Way of Bruce Grey Financial Literacy Program

Looking to improve your financial health? Our Financial Literacy Program is free, and confidential and offers a variety of services including basic budgeting, referrals to bankruptcy consultants, and some credit counselling. For information, call/text Caroline at 519-378-4773 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 a location 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 high school). 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

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

Life is full of uncertainties and can take unexpected turns that can be overwhelming, but it's important to remember that you are never alone. If you are currently facing challenges and looking to make positive changes, taking the first step can be a daunting task but it's worth it. Starting small can guide you towards a happier and more fulfilling life.



A great resource to begin your journey is by calling or texting 211. This service offers confidential and free support in over 170 languages, linking you to local resources and services. You can also visit their website, informationgreybruce.ca for additional information. Remember, seeking help is a sign of strength, and taking that step toward a better life is the best decision you can make for yourself.



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