

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 9, 2020
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Deadline for Pinellas CARES applications is November 13

Individuals and families impacted by COVID- 19 can still receive help

Clearwater, Florida (November 9, 2020) – Through the Pinellas CARES program, 211 Tampa Bay Cares has helped thousands of Pinellas County residents affected by the pandemic. 211 has administered over \$18 million in rent, mortgage and utility bills and is currently on track to administer millions more. Unfortunately, this life changing help is coming to a close, Friday, November 13, 2020. If you or someone you know needs help with rent, mortgage, or utility bills please visit help@211tampabay.org to apply.

To expedite the process, please collect the following documents and send them along with your application; picture or scan of the unpaid bill(s) AND picture or scan of documents verifying U.S. **and** Pinellas County residency. For a complete list of acceptable identifying information, please visit <https://211tampabay.org/programs/covid-cares/>. After documentation is submitted, applicants must also sign an electronic attestation that your income loss is due to COVID-19 and your assets are under \$10,000.

All applications received prior to 11:59 pm on November 13, 2020 will be processed for help. No new applications or additional requests for help will be accepted after the deadline.

For additional information and a complete guide on how to submit an application, please visit <https://211tampabay.org/programs/covid-cares/>.

Options for applicants include: texting "Covidcares" to 898211 or calling 211 directly. Please note that due to the overwhelming demand wait times are longer than usual. We appreciate your patience and look forward to serving you.

People needing additional support or resources can utilize the 211 Tampa Bay Cares network for assistance with child care, mental health services and much more. Simply CALL 211 from any phone or TEXT your zip code to 898211. Help is available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. 211 services are free of charge.

About 211

2-1-1 is an easy to remember telephone number that connects callers to information about critical health and human services available in our community such as locating a food pantry, child care, recreation programs, and volunteer and donation opportunities. 2-1-1 also lists health and nutrition programs, such as community fitness activities, classes on healthy eating, smoking cessation and free health screenings. 2-1-1 is a free confidential phone number available 24 hours per day, 7 days a week in 150 languages. 2-1-1's database contains approximately 3,000 resources with over 7,000 services. 2-1-1 TBC currently serves Pinellas and Hernando counties.

If you need help 24 hours a day with referrals or information on local non-profit organizations, please Dial 2-1-1 or send e-mail requests to media@211tampabay.org.

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MEDIA CONTACT: 211 Tampa Bay Cares, Micki Thompson, President/CEO, (727)-403-4062, mickit@211tampabay.org