

**Increases delivery of emergency rent and utility assistance**

The N.C. Housing Opportunities and Prevention of Evictions (HOPE) Program has announced a change to income requirements that will increase the number of applicants eligible for emergency rent and utility assistance. When the second application period opened on May 17, the program prioritized applicants with an income of 50 percent of the area median income, and is now expanding the income limit to 80 percent of the area median income for the county where the applicant lives. The program initially set a lower income limit to ensure that North Carolina households that are most at risk of eviction had the opportunity to apply first.

"We established the HOPE Program last fall to help North Carolinians stay in their homes with the lights on," said Governor Roy Cooper. "There are still thousands of families who need this assistance and we are expanding eligibility so we can help even more people recover from this pandemic."

The HOPE Program promotes housing stability by providing rent and utility bill assistance to prevent evictions and the disconnection of utilities. During the first phase of the HOPE Program, \$133 million in assistance was awarded to help more than 36,000 families statewide. More than \$30 million has already been awarded in the second phase of the program that opened last month.

The HOPE Program currently serves 88 North Carolina counties, with 12 counties and five Native American tribes receiving direct federal funding to operate their own emergency rent and utility programs. A complete list of the counties served by the HOPE Program, county programs and tribal government programs can be found using the online NC HOPE Interactive Map ([rebuild.nc.gov/hope-program/find](http://rebuild.nc.gov/hope-program/find)). Information on area median income for North Carolina counties can be found using the HUD 2021 online calculation tool ([huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il.html#-2021\\_query](http://huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il.html#-2021_query)).

Applicants who received rent and/or utility assistance during the first phase of the HOPE Program are eligible to reapply for additional help. Utility assistance is available to applicants that apply and qualify for rent assistance. Utility-only applications are not being accepted during this phase of the HOPE Program.

Complete information about the HOPE Program, including eligibility requirements, program benefits and an online application, are available at [www.nc.hope.gov](http://www.nc.hope.gov). Applicants who cannot access the website should call 888-9ASK-HOPE (888-927-5467) for help with the application process. The HOPE Call Center is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Funding for the HOPE Program is provided to the state through U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant-Coronavirus Relief and the Emergency Rental Assistance Program established by the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021 and further funded by the American Rescue Plan Act 2021. The HOPE Program is managed by the N.C. Office of Recovery and Resiliency, a division of the Department of Public Safety. To learn more about the HOPE Program, visit [www.nc.hope.gov](http://www.nc.hope.gov) and follow HOPE on social media at Twitter and Facebook.

In addition to the programs listed above, there are nonprofit organizations and churches in some areas that can assist with rent and utilities. The NC 211 Resource database may have information on a local program that can help you. [nc211.org](http://nc211.org)

\* All events are subject to change because of the COVID-19 situation. You may want to seek confirmation of events.

**Church**

**JULY 17**

**Clothes Closet**

8am-12 noon at Rocky River Baptist Church, 297 Rocky River Church Rd in Polkton. Featuring previously loved & lightly worn items for kids, teens & adults. Also accessories, home items & lots more!

**JULY 25**

**7th Appreciation For Elder Gary Gaddy**

at Johnson Chapel Holiness Church, 3:30pm with speaker Apostle Marvin Leak of Sound Doctrine Fellowship in Rockingham. Church will follow safety guidelines. All are invited.

**ONGOING**

**New Pastor at Southside Baptist Church**

199 Burnsville St in Wadesboro, Cliff McKnight. All are welcome to in-person services 11am on Sundays & 7pm on Wednesdays.

**Bible Study**

Every Tuesday at 7pm at Expected End Ministries

**Bible Class**

Every Wednesday at 6:10-8pm at West Rocky Ford MBC. Classes for both adults and youth

**In Home Prayer Meetings Offered**

by New Life Ministries Pentecostal. Call Pastor Randy Brooks 704-690-4900 or Sister Linda Mitchell 704-270-4071

**Events**

**JULY 17**

**Clothes Closet**

8am-12 noon at Rocky River Baptist Church, 297 Rocky River Church Rd in Polkton. Featuring previously loved & lightly worn items for kids, teens & adults. Also accessories, home items & lots more!

**JULY 19**

**County-Wide Zoning Meeting** for residents to provide input on what they would like to see incorporated into a county-wide zoning ordinance, 6:30-8pm at Pee Dee Wildlife Refuge, 5770 Hwy 52 N, between Wadesboro & Ansonville

**JULY 22**

**County-Wide Zoning Meeting** for residents to provide input on what they would like to see incorporated into a county-wide zoning ordinance, 6:30-8pm at HOLLA!, 229 Main St in Morven

**JULY 27**

**County-Wide Zoning Meeting** for residents to provide input on what they would like to see incorporated into a county-wide zoning ordinance, 6:30-8pm at Lilesville Fire Dept, 202 West Wall St in Lilesville

**JULY 29**

**County-Wide Zoning Meeting** for residents to provide input on what they would like to see incorporated into a county-wide zoning ordinance, 6:30-8pm at South Piedmont Community College, LL Polk Campus, Raye Community Room, 680 Hwy 74 in Polkton

**JULY 31**

**VFW Fundraiser For Post 10403 Auxiliary**, inviting all bikers, trikers, spider & Jeep riders. At Caraway Business Center, 9162 Hwy 52 N in Ansonville. Registration 11am-12 noon, ride at 12:15. \$15 single riders, \$20 for two up. Prizes, 50/50 pot & food. Hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, chips, sodas & water. Plates \$5 for non-riders. Info Donnie Lewis 704-320-6376

**AUGUST 4**

**Friends of Carla Freeman Blood Drive**, 2-7pm at First Presbyterian Church, 208 S Greene St in Wadesboro. Call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) & enter: CarlaFreeman to schedule an appointment

**ONGOING EVENTS**

**Food Pantry** Free food every Wed, 9-11am at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Ctr. 704-826-8182

**Free Pregnancy Test And Ultrasound**. Call HOPE Pregnancy Resource Center to schedule 704-690-6689

**Auto Plus C&M AUTO SUPPLY**  
Your locally owned Auto Parts Store  
Hwy 74, Wadesboro • 704-694-5167

**Williamson Wrecker Service**  
Since 1972  
704-694-4545

**Anson Radiator**  
125 Stanback Ferry Road  
Wadesboro 704-289-7999  
Autos • Freight Trucks  
Farm Equipment  
General Repairs

**Papa Joe's PIZZA**  
Plank Road Shopping Center  
Wadesboro • 704-694-6666

**Badcock HOME FURNITURE & more**  
Hwy. 52, South • P.O. Box 856  
Wadesboro, NC 28170  
Ph: 704-694-4178  
www.badcock.com

**PIEDMONT FLOORING**  
All Major Brands of Floor Covering  
Serta & Orderest Bedding  
214 West Main Street in Marshville  
704-624-2211  
MAYTAG • FRIGIDAIRE • CROSLLEY

From Your Friends At  
**PARSONS DRUG**  
Serving Anson County for over 100 years  
"On The Square"  
Wadesboro • 704-694-2218

**Glenn Trexler & Sons Logging, Inc.**  
"Freedom of Worship is a Precious Commodity"  
WADESBORO

**PEE DEE ELECTRIC**  
Hwy. 52 S. Wadesboro  
Midway Rd. Rockingham  
"Owned by those we serve."

**UWHARRIE BANK**  
704-694-2122  
Member FDIC

**H. W. Little & Company**  
Hardware & More!  
Uptown Wadesboro  
704-694-2214

**Henry's Body Shop**  
704-848-4989  
4225 Stanbackferry  
Ice Plant Rd • Lilesville  
Owner: Robbie Henry

**ADVERTISE HERE! Call The Express to find out how...704-694-2480**



**HOMECOMING**  
Sun July 25 10:30am  
REV. REX BURLESON is bringing the Homecoming message  
Bring a covered dish for lunch to follow service

**REVIVAL**  
July 26 - 29 7pm  
July 26: Rev. Tony High  
July 27: Rev. Scott Baucom  
July 28: Rev. Chris Jackson  
July 29: Rev. Johnnie McCullers

**ROCKY RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH**  
297 Rocky River Church Road in Polkton  
In the Burnsville Community

**Clothes Closet**  
Sat, July 17  
8am to 12 noon  
All donations go to Kids & Youth Camps  
PREVIOUSLY LOVED - LIGHTLY WORN CLOTHING  
KIDS, TEENS, ADULTS • ACCESSORIES • MORE!  
School is coming up, come see Kids Section  
297 Rocky River Church Road in Polkton



**MISSING DOG**

Female yellow Lab mix with husky, answers to Bailey. Missing since July 4th. Possibly wearing dark pink collar with a tag that says "Boujee Bailey."  
Money REWARD given for her return and/or information leading to her return.  
Please call 704-475-0605 or 704-690-3051.

**FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES**  
SATURDAY AUGUST 14<sup>th</sup> 11:00 am - 2:00 pm  
AT HARVEST MINISTRIES  
**DON'T MISS IT!**  
**BACK TO SCHOOL GIVEAWAY**  
THIS YEAR WE WILL BE PROVIDING HUNDREDS OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO EDUCATORS ALL ACROSS ANSON COUNTY!  
TEACHERS AND EDUCATORS - THIS DAY IS FOR YOU!  
COME AND PICK UP SUPPLIES FOR YOUR CLASSROOM!!!  
THIS YEARS SUPPLIES WILL BE GIVEN TO TEACHERS AND EDUCATORS ONLY  
CONTACT 704-695-2879 FOR MORE INFO OR TO DONATE  
Send Donations to PO BOX 1254 Wadesboro, NC 28170

**FBI Charlotte Highlights Top Ten Red Flag Fraud Signs**

Scammers never stop; they work around the clock to cash in on the latest scheme hoping to steal your money or your identity. You've heard many of their pitches: they pretend to be romantically interested in you, say they are a relative in trouble, or pretend to be collecting money for a charity after a natural disaster. Soon, the cycle of fraud begins. When a warning is issued about their scheme, they adapt and make enough changes to their pitch to convince the victims their claims are real. It's time to crush their crime sprees. FBI Charlotte is launching a new public awareness message. "Scams change, red flags don't!" No matter what type of story you hear via email, text, phone, social media, by mail, or in person, scams change, but the below red flags don't. Here are our top ten red flag fraud signs.

- Requests payment via gift cards, wire transfers, or virtual currency.
- Creates a sense of urgency or deadline to pay quickly.
- Demands secrecy from you.
- Poor grammar or misspellings.
- Payments offered in amounts higher than listed price.
- Email addresses disguised to seem legitimate.
- Unsolicited emails, texts, etc., requesting you confirm usernames and/or passwords.
- Requests to move to a new platform to communicate.
- Requests to access your personal bank account to pay you for a service.
- Unsolicited emails with links or attachments.

No matter what type of story someone is telling you, as always, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. FBI Charlotte created a series of videos to highlight these common red flag fraud signs. They will be published on the FBI YouTube account and on @FBICharlotte's Twitter account. If you have been victimized by a cyber fraud, you can report it to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at [www.IC3.gov](http://www.IC3.gov).