

West Columbia/Cayce Community Resource Guide (Updated)

A Note from Green Hill Baptist Church: Welcome! Green Hill Baptist Church deeply cares about our neighbors and is committed to connecting you with the support you need. While we are unable to provide direct financial assistance for utility bills to non-members, we still want to help by pointing those in need toward specialized services. Please utilize the comprehensive list of dedicated financial and community resources provided below.

This guide provides current and accurate information for utility bill help, food assistance, travel support, and career resources for residents of the West Columbia, Cayce, and greater Lexington County areas in South Carolina.

I. Financial Assistance (Possible Bill Help)

These agencies may provide assistance with rent, mortgage, and utility bills (electric, water, gas).

Always call first to confirm eligibility requirements and program availability, as funding is often limited.

2-1-1 South Carolina

- **Services & Notes: STATEWIDE HELPLINE.** Connects individuals with various health and human service programs, including financial assistance. This should be your first call for referrals.
- **Phone:** 211 or 866-892-9211

Aiken/Barnwell/Lexington Community Action Agency

- **Address:** 650 Knox Abbott Drive, Cayce, SC 29033 (Lexington Satellite Office)
- **Programs:** Administers the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP).
- **Phone:** 803-794-6778

God's Helping Hands

- **Address:** 919 Holland Avenue, Cayce, SC 29033
- **Focus:** Provides utility bill financial assistance.
- **Serves Zip Codes:** 29033, 29169, 29170, 29171, and 29172.
- **Phone:** 803-791-4167

Mission Lexington (Formerly LICS)

- **Address:** 216 Harmon Street, Lexington, SC 29072
- **Focus:** Provides limited financial assistance for rent, electric bills, and prescriptions for **Lexington County residents.**

- **Phone:** 803-785-6900

The Salvation Army of the Midlands

- **Address:** 3024 Farrow Road, Columbia, SC 29203
- **Services:** Often provides emergency assistance with utilities and essential needs. Call the Social Services department directly.
- **Phone (Social Services):** 803-765-0260

The Cooperative Ministry

- **Address:** 3821 W Beltline, Columbia, SC 29204
- **Focus:** Offers guidance and referrals. Direct financial assistance may be limited to clients enrolled in their Financial Empowerment coaching programs.
- **Phone:** 803-799-3853

Wateree Community Actions, Inc.

- **Address:** 3220 Two Notch Road, Columbia, SC 29202
- **Services:** Serves Richland County and may have programs to assist with utility bills and energy costs.
- **Phone:** 803-786-4250

City of Columbia Water - Customer Assistance Program

- **Website:** <https://columbiascwater.net/billing-assistance/>
- **Focus:** Specific program for City of Columbia water customers experiencing financial hardship with water/sewer bills.
- **Phone:** 803-545-3300

II. Food Pantries & Nutrition Support

Harvest Hope Food Bank - Columbia Branch

- **Address:** 2220 Shop Road, Columbia, SC 29201
- **Notes:** This is a major hub. They distribute food to a network of partner pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters. Call them to find the closest partner agency to your location.
- **Phone:** 803-254-4443

Mission Lexington (Formerly LICS)

- **Address:** 216 Harmon Street, Lexington, SC 29072
- **Services:** Operates a Food Pantry for **Lexington County residents**. Typical hours are Mon-Fri, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

- **Phone:** 803-785-6900

God's Helping Hands

- **Address:** 919 Holland Avenue, Cayce, SC 29033
- **Focus:** Provides food assistance to residents in specific local zip codes (29033, 29169, 29170, 29171, and 29172).
- **Phone:** 803-791-4167

St. David's Episcopal Church - Food Pantry

- **Address:** 605 Wisteria Drive, West Columbia, SC 29169
- **Notes:** Many local churches operate pantries. Call ahead to confirm their current hours and any specific requirements.
- **Phone:** 803-794-1711

We Are Olympia - Food Share

- **Address:** Olympia Learning Center, 631 Whaley Street, Columbia, SC 29201
- **Notes:** Often hosts regular food distribution events in the Olympia neighborhood, near West Columbia. Search for their name on social media for event information.

SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)

- **Website:** <https://dss.sc.gov/assistance-programs/snap/>
- **Focus:** Federal program. Apply online or at the local Department of Social Services (DSS) office for food benefits.

III. Travel and Transportation Assistance

Travel aid is usually limited to specific needs like medical appointments or job-related travel.

Medicaid Transportation (Non-Emergency Medical Transportation - NEMT)

- **Focus:** For Medicaid recipients who need transportation to medical appointments.
- **Phone:** 1-888-287-9177

The Cooperative Ministry

- **Address:** 3821 W Beltline, Columbia, SC 29204
- **Services:** May be able to help with transportation for specific needs, such as getting to job interviews or medical appointments, especially for individuals involved in their programs.
- **Phone:** 803-799-3853

The Salvation Army of the Midlands

- **Address:** 3024 Farrow Road, Columbia, SC 29203
- **Services:** In some cases, they can provide assistance with transportation for emergency situations or to access essential services.
- **Phone:** 803-765-0260

American Red Cross - Central South Carolina Chapter

- **Address:** 2751 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201
- **Focus:** Typically provides transportation assistance in disaster situations or for specific needs related to health and safety.
- **Phone:** 803-251-6000

Lexington County Community Action Agency

- **Address:** 521 Gibson Road, Lexington, SC 29072
- **Services:** May have programs that can assist with transportation for employment or medical needs.
- **Phone:** 803-359-6118

2-1-1 South Carolina

- **Services & Notes:** Can connect individuals with various social service programs and may be aware of local transportation options or smaller community-based initiatives.
- **Phone:** 211 or 866-892-9211

IV. Career Finding Help

SC Works - Lexington County

- **Address:** 945 Knox Abbott Drive, Suite 100, Cayce, SC 29033 (Right in the West Columbia/Cayce area)
- **Services:** Offers a wide range of free services for job seekers, including job search workshops, resume assistance, interview skills training, and access to job listings.
- **Phone:** 803-935-5292

Goodwill Industries of Upstate/Midlands South Carolina

- **Address:** 5230 Sunset Blvd, Lexington, SC 29072 (Retail Store & Donation Center)
- **Services:** Goodwill often has programs and resources to help people find employment, including career counseling and job training assistance. Inquire at the store about their job service programs.
- **Website (Main Office):** <https://www.goodwillsc.org/>

Lexington County Community Action Agency

- **Address:** 521 Gibson Road, Lexington, SC 29072
- **Services:** Often has programs aimed at helping individuals achieve self-sufficiency, which can include job readiness training and placement assistance.
- **Phone:** 803-359-6118

The Cooperative Ministry

- **Address:** 3821 W Beltline, Columbia, SC 29204
- **Focus:** Offers a Financial Empowerment program that includes job readiness components, such as resume building and interview skills.
- **Phone:** 803-799-3853

The Salvation Army of the Midlands

- **Address:** 3024 Farrow Road, Columbia, SC 29203
- **Services:** Sometimes offers vocational training and job placement assistance as part of their social services.
- **Phone:** 803-765-0260

2-1-1 South Carolina

- **Services & Notes:** A valuable resource for connecting people with a wide array of social services, including local job training and employment programs.
- **Phone:** 211 or 866-892-9211

Local Staffing Agencies & Online Job Boards

- **Recommendation:** Encourage the person to search online for "staffing agencies West Columbia SC" and utilize major job boards like Indeed, LinkedIn, and Monster for current local postings.

Important Note: It is crucial for the person seeking help to contact these organizations directly to understand their specific services, current funding availability, eligibility criteria, and operating hours.