

# HELP *at* H.O.M.E.

Holden Outreach – Managing Emergencies


## Quick Reference Guide



### **NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS**

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Help at H.O.M.E. provides financial support to residents of any age who are experiencing an emergency and need assistance paying their heating, utility, or other bills for the necessities of daily life. The funds come entirely from citizen donations and are administered by the Holden Council on Aging on behalf of the Town of Holden.

Learn more about Help at H.O.M.E.  
and other Town of Holden services that  
can improve your daily life. 

INTRODUCTION

Everyone experiences emergencies that can range in severity from accidents, to losing a job, to loss of electric power. This flyer lists town resources and community organizations that can provide help to Holden citizens during emergencies — and also enhance life from day to day.

**As always, if you have a personal emergency, call 911 to reach an ambulance, the Holden Police, or the Holden Fire Department.**

In the event of a Town-wide emergency, such as a major storm, the Town sends notifications to landline and mobile phones, sends text messages, and sends emails. The notification goes automatically to all landlines. If you wish to receive notification via mobile phone, text, or email, you must register in the CodeRED system. Look for the CodeRED button on the Town’s main webpage:



If the Town loses power, the Senior Center will be open as a warming site for residents.

For more information about how Holden prepares for emergencies, and how you can prepare, go to the Town website ([www.holdenma.gov](http://www.holdenma.gov)). At the top of the page click on the “Government” tab, then click on “Emergency Management.”

HOW TO APPLY FOR AID FROM HELP AT H.O.M.E.

If you have a financial emergency and need help paying for fuel or utilities, you can apply for aid by filling out the Help at H.O.M.E. / Welcome Adrich Relief Fund Application Form. You can download it from the Town website, or ask for assistance at the Senior Center. Call 508-210-5570 to speak with one of the helpful outreach workers, Paula Farraher-Earley or Dale Hayden. **You do not have to be a senior citizen to receive aid.**

Along with your completed application, please include a copy of:

- Your government issued photo ID
- Proof of your household income
- The bill you need assistance with
- A copy of your most recent bank statements

HOLDEN SENIOR CENTER

.....508-210-5570  
**1130 Main Street, Holden. The parking lot and main entrance are at the end of Bascom Parkway, off Highland Street.**

The Holden Senior Center is a vibrant, warm, and friendly place with a welcoming staff, a cozy living room, and many programs for seniors from exercise classes to movies to photography groups.

The staff assist seniors and their families by providing services and activities that enable them to stay independent and in their own homes for as long as possible. A few of these services are listed here. Call the Senior Center for more information.

**Group Meals at the Senior Center.**

Offered for seniors M–F at noon (except on holidays and election days). Reservations are required two days before. Suggested donation is \$3. And, visit the **Morning Glory Cafe** Friday mornings, 8:30–10:30.

**SHINE (Serving Health Information Needs of Elders).** A free service program which helps Medicare Beneficiaries with their Medicare health insurance questions.

**Loan of medical equipment.** Free loan of walkers, wheelchairs, canes, and other medical equipment as available.

**The Wachusett Food Pantry.**

Groceries can be delivered to homebound people through the Senior Center.

**Legal Services.** Sign up for a free 15-minute legal consultation, available once a month at the Senior Center.

**Senior Center Van.** Holden seniors and disabled residents may obtain transportation in Holden and bordering towns. One week notice required for rides. Call the Senior Center to make a reservation.

Senior Center outreach workers help eligible residents apply for Federal **Fuel Assistance** through the Worcester Community Action Council, and Federal **SNAP** benefits (formerly Food Stamps.)

**HOLDEN’S GALE FREE LIBRARY**

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.....508-210-5560

**23 Highland Street, Holden.** When the Gale Free Library opened in 1888, someone described it as “the gem of Worcester County,” and it still is! The modern interior is inviting, the librarians are knowledgeable and friendly, the collection of books is outstanding, and the children’s room offers toys and free programs as well as books.

There is a comfortable reading room complete with newspapers, magazines, and the latest mysteries and novels. Music and movies are available for free streaming, and there are several public computers

**Gale Free Library is a fully ADA accessible building.** This includes handicapped parking and power access doors. Wheel-chair-accessible computer stations are also available throughout the building. Physical materials to accommodate users include Large Print materials, ebooks, audiobooks, DVD’s with subtitles and closed-captioning, hand-held illuminated magnifiers, language learning materials (online and print), and Zoom text.

**The Book Express.** In partnership with the Holden Senior Center, Gale Free Library delivers library materials to Holden residents who are housebound. To sign up call 508-210-5560 (ext 4194).

**Museum Pass Program.** Provides patrons admission at a reduced cost, or no cost, to a variety of local museums and attractions.

**HOUSING**

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..... 508-829-9182

The Housing Authority administers state and federally subsidized housing programs for low-income or disabled individuals and families. State program: 48 one-bedroom units at Checkerberry Village and 8 three-bedroom family housing units at Holden Hills. Federal program: 62 Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers for families with income less than 50% of the median income for Holden.

**■ Checkerberry Village, Holden**

..... 508-829-9182

**■ Colony Retirement Homes, Holden**

..... 508-829-4300

Provides Section 8 housing assistance for seniors, and some subsidized and fair market rentals. Administered by the Worcester Area Mission Society.

**HOLDEN VETERANS’ AGENT**

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..... 508-210-5529

Bradford Sherblom, the Holden Veterans’ Agent, is a Town employee who advises and assists resident veterans and their dependents in obtaining Federal and State benefits for which they may be eligible. He also administers the State veterans services program of financial and medical benefits.

**OTHER COMMUNITY SERVICES**

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**■ Churches in Holden**

- First Congregational Church
- First Baptist Church
- St. Francis Episcopal Church
- St. Mary’s Catholic Church
- Holden Chapel
- Immanuel Lutheran Church
- Chaffin Congregational Church
- Calvary Worship Center

**■ Wachusett Food Pantry**

..... 978-563-1064

**50 Worcester Road (Route 12), Sterling.**

The Wachusett Food Pantry (WFP) is a free-of-charge, emergency, monthly food program offering three to five days of meals to any family in Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, or Sterling. Call to request an emergency distribution.

**■ The Corner Shop Thrift Store**

..... 508-829-9270

**1180 Main Street, Holden.** A good, used clothing thrift store located in the basement of First Congregational Church. Enter through the back door.

**■ Wachusett Recycling Center**

..... (978) 464-2854

**131 Raymond Huntington Hwy, West Boylston.** In addition to accepting items for recycling, the center has all sorts of free items for reuse throughout the site, from furniture to art supplies.

## TOWN EMERGENCY RESOURCES AT A GLANCE

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■ **Town Website**.....[holdenma.gov](http://holdenma.gov)

■ **Facebook Page** .....Town of Holden

■ **Ambulance** .....911

■ **Community Services** .....211

■ **Fire**

• Emergency.....911

• Non-emergency.....508-210-5650

■ **Police**

• Emergency.....911

• Non-emergency.....508-210-5600

■ **Light Department**

• Weekdays .....508-210-5400

• Nights & weekends...508-210-5600

■ **Water Department**

• General questions...508-210-5550

• Billing.....508-210-5401

• Nights & weekends...508-210-5600

■ **Help at H.O.M.E / Senior Center**

• Weekdays .....508-210-5570

■ **Veteran's Agent**.....508-210-5529

■ **State Police, Holden** .....508-829-8410

■ **Wachusett Food Pantry**..978-563-1064

■ **Suicide Hotline** .....988

**To donate to Help at H.O.M.E., go to the Town website ([holdenma.gov](http://holdenma.gov)), click on “online bill pay,” then “donations,” then “Help at H.O.M.E.” Thank you!**