

Thank you for joining us!

We will get started promptly at 2:30pm.

While you wait, please make sure your audio is turned on and working.



Together We Can Overcome

COVID-19 Resources
Webinar
April 16, 2020



**Taylor Sminchak, M.Ed.
Coordinator of Outreach**

**ZipAssist
University of Akron**



ZipAssist
The University of Akron

About Us...

Mission:

ZipAssist serves as a student advocacy and support office and centralized information hub for the University's campus.

ZipAssist has been intentionally designed to share available resources, and provide support and assistance to help students persist in their academic pursuits at the University.

Services:

- Simmons - Information Desk
- Help-A-Zip Referrals
- Campus Cupboard
- U.S. Passport Acceptance
- Retention Grants & Emergency Assistance
- Parent & Family Association
- Off-Campus Living & Commuter Resources
- Financial Wellness Education
- Course Registration Outreach/Programming
- Celebratory & Educational Programming
- ...your go-to campus resource!

 uazipassist@uakron.edu

 uakron.edu/zipassist

 330-972-7272

 Simmons Hall



ZipAssist
The University of Akron

Help-A-Zip Referral

Services:

- Balance of academics with life
- Early alert/referral system
- Determination of services/resources
 - academic concerns [absences, tutoring, study skills]
 - personal and/or social wellbeing [anxiety, depression, counseling services, homesickness]
 - campus or community resources/services [United Way, Financial Empowerment counseling, The Salvation Army, food banks, social services, accessibility, tutoring, counseling, student activities]
 - emergency financial crisis [SEFA program, food insecurity, eviction notice assistance]
 - financial aid, tuition and fees, and/or your student account [FAFSA, hold on a student account, loans, debt]



If you are aware of someone in distress, has intent to leave UA, or in need of guidance/resources, please let us know!

www.uakron.edu/referral



Balancing on a Budget

SEPT MONTHLY BUDGETING & REFUND USAGE

Webinar: Wednesday, September 4th @ 12pm
Challenge: Released Monday, September 9th
Workshop: Friday, September 20th @ 11am
Newsletter: Monday, September 30th



OCT EATING HEALTHY ON A BUDGET

Webinar: Wednesday, October 2nd @ 12pm
Challenge: Released Monday, October 7th
Workshop: Friday, October 18th @ 11am
Newsletter: Thursday, October 31st



NOV HOLIDAY SPENDING & SAVING

Webinar: Wednesday, November 6th @ 12pm
Challenge: Released Monday, November 11th
Workshop: Friday, November 22nd @ 11am
Newsletter: Wednesday, November 27th



DEC AFFORDING TEXTBOOKS

Webinar: Monday, December 2nd @ 12pm
Challenge: Released Monday, December 2nd
Workshop: Friday, December 6th @ 11am
Newsletter: Friday, December 6th

JAN SAVING FOR EMERGENCIES

Webinar: Wednesday, January 15th @ 12pm
Challenge: Released Friday, January 17th
Workshop: Friday, January 24th @ 11am
Newsletter: Friday, January 31st



FEB FINDING AN AFFORDABLE PLACE TO LIVE

Webinar: Wednesday, February 5th @ 12pm
Challenge: Released Monday, February 10th
Workshop: Friday, February 21st @ 11am
Newsletter: Friday, February 28th



MAR UNDERSTANDING YOUR SPENDING PROBLEM

Webinar: Wednesday, March 4th @ 12pm
Challenge: Released Monday, March 9th
Workshop: Friday, March 20th @ 11am
Newsletter: Tuesday, March 31st



APR INCREASING INCOME

Webinar: Wednesday, April 1st @ 12pm
Challenge: Released Monday, April 6th
Workshop: Friday, April 17th @ 11am
Newsletter: Thursday, April 30th



Additional Support

- ZipsTech technology rental program
 - Chromebooks and hotspots available for free during Spring 2020
- Campus Cupboard
 - Scheduled pick-ups only at Simmons Hall (MWF)
 - Go to www.uakron.edu/cupboard to submit online request
 - Available weekly for UA students during Covid-19 pandemic
- Student Emergency Financial Assistance Grant [SEFA]
 - Submit a Help-A-Zip Referral at www.uakron.edu/referral
 - A member of the ZipAssist team will review eligibility and outreach



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Additional Support (cont.)

- Counseling & Testing Services
 - Compiled a list of resources, videos and available services on their website at <https://www.uakron.edu/counseling/>
- Career Services
 - Helps students reach career goals while providing connections to employers at <https://www.uakron.edu/career/>
 - Find job opportunities on Handshake and OhioMeansJobs
 - Remote and essential opportunities available
- University updates
 - Stay informed by referencing <https://www.uakron.edu/keep-learning/>



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Academic Success

Current Students:

- Tutoring at www.eTutoringonline.org
- Summer and Fall 2020 registration open now
 - Virtual advising appointments
- Continuing Student Scholarship Application
 - Due June 1, 2020

Incoming Students:

- Making it easier to become a Zip!
 - <https://www.uakron.edu/admissions/undergraduate/>
- Scholarship deadlines extended until June 1, 2020
- New Student Orientation at nso@uakron.edu



Pamela Hopkins, LSW
University of Akron SA Support Specialist
The Salvation Army of Summit County



ZipAssist
The University of Akron



DOING THE MOST GOOD

Mission Statement

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

The Salvation Army - Akron

- 190 South Maple Street
Akron, Ohio 44302
- Telephone: (330) 762-8481
- Hours: 9:00am - 3:00 pm Monday - Thursday
- Website: www.salvationarmyakron.org



Services Available - U Akron Students

Food Assistance

Food Pantry

- Pre-packed food is available by appointment every Wednesday for the U Akron currently enrolled students from 12:00pm - 3:00pm



How to sign up?

- Call 330-762-8481 and identify yourself as a U Akron student
- The caller will then schedule the student a food appointment
- Students need to bring to their appointment their Zip ID and current class schedule

Campus Cupboard

- Food/snack items are provided to the U Akron to disperse through the campus cupboard / grab and go locations administered by the Zip Assist team

Services Available - U Akron Students



Resource Connection

- Are you struggling financially or need additional assistance with resources?
- Please fill out a Zip Assist ticket online:
www.uakron.edu/referral
- The Zip Assist team will assess the student's situation and refer to The Salvation Army based on emergent needs



Utility Assistance

- Must have exhausted all Federal and State funding available
- Must have a disconnect or shut off notice
- Referred through the Zip Assist team

Housing Assistance

- Must have exhausted all available community resources
- Must have a 3-day notice from landlord
- Referred through the Zip Assist team

Services Available - U Akron Students

Textbook Assistance

- Must be in good standing with The University of Akron
- Student must be experiencing a financial hardship
- Have a student refund less than \$1500.00
- Students must have at least a 2.0 GPA
- Eligible to apply once every 24 months
- Students must contact the Zip Assist team to apply
- Referred students must complete an initial textbook assistance appointment and a mid-semester check in with the SA Support Specialist
- Textbooks must be returned at the end of the semester
- Textbook Assistance Program is available during Spring and Fall semesters ONLY



Assistance Provided to Summit County Due to COVID-19

Food Assistance

- Prepacked food for up to 4 - 5 days for the household

How Can I Obtain Food Help?

- Appointments can be made every week to those in need by contacting the Food Referral Line at 330-376-4850

Utility Assistance

- Phone calls are taken for Ohio Edison Electric disconnect notices and or Dominion Energy Gas PIPP Default/shut off notices on Mondays at 8:00am
- Assistance varies based on eligibility and funding available

Programs currently postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Learning Zone Childcare and Afterschool Programs
- Hot Shower Program
- Pathway of Hope Program
- Community Table (Hot Meal Program)





Questions?

Pamela Hopkins, LSW

University of Akron SA Support Specialist

salvationarmy@uakron.edu or

Pamela.Hopkins@use.salvationarmy.org

Victoria (Tory) Longwill Financial Empowerment Coach

Financial Empowerment Center
United Way of Summit County



ZipAssist
The University of Akron



FREE 1:1 FINANCIAL COACHING

- Phone sessions and video conferencing are available now during shutdown
- On Campus in Simmons Hall every Wednesday

- **We can discuss and create:**
 - Spending plans
 - Resources and community help
 - Savings goals
 - Identify areas in the budget that need reduced
 - Create goals
 - Reduce debt
 - Improve create

PROTECT YOUR MONEY AND YOUR IDENTITY BY AVOIDING SCAMS

Hang up on robocalls-Don't give any information to these callers and don't press any numbers as it could lead to more calls.

Most scammers are using phishing emails, which could entice you to click harmful links or downloads, or to share your personal information under false pretenses. Use trustworthy sites and sources.

Avoid calls and emails about government checks. They can't get you your stimulus check faster.

Ignore online offers for vaccinations and home test kits. There are no FDA tested kits available at this time. There are no special teas/lozenges/pills etc. that can cure this virus.

If you are donating to a cause, make sure that it is legitimate. Give.org is a good site to check for the name of your charity before donating to ensure it is a true donation center.

STIMULUS CHECK DETAILS

If you're a college student that financially supports yourself, filed a tax return in 2018 or 2019, was not claimed as a dependent, and meet income eligibility, you will get a stimulus check.

-If you have been claimed as a dependent, you will not receive a stimulus check.

-If you have not filed a tax return and were not claimed as a dependent, you can use the IRS's Non Filers tool to claim your payment

Check is \$1,200 for each individual (\$2,400 for couples) and \$500 for each child (under 17) listed on your tax return.

The IRS will never call you, text you, email you or contact you on social media asking for personal or bank account information – even related to the economic impact payments so watch for scammers! The IRS has a tool where you can check the status of your payment.

IRS.GOV/EIP

STIMULUS CHECK AND SMART SPENDING

If you have a sufficient emergency fund (6-9 months of income) saved, re-evaluate your budget. Make sure that you could live off your savings if something happened to your employment.

Consider shopping locally and helping your community.

Since student loan interest is being waived until October 2020, you could also put this income towards your student loans because it will go straight to the principal.



STUDENT LOANS DURING COVID-19

- Now through 9/30/20, Federal loans are not requiring payment.
- Interest will also stop.
- This happens automatically so you do not need to call your loan provider.
- If your payments are on auto-debit, log into your account and turn this feature off.
- The hope is that you can use your normal student loan payment monies to purchase basic needs.

Student Loans Continued

Garnishment and collections are stopped during this time.

- Contact your employer to stop taking wages because this is not automatic on your employer's end.

If you are enrolled in the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program:

- You will still earn credit for these months.
- If you are enrolled in COVID-Forbearance, you won't get credit so be sure to remove this status to receive the benefit.

UNEMPLOYMENT:

You can file online for unemployment at unemployment.ohio.gov

24 hours/day, 7 days a week.

You can also apply by phone at 1-877-644-6562 or TTY 1-614-387-8408, M-F from 7am-7pm or Saturday from 9am-1pm.

Be sure to use the following mass-layoff number to expedite claim processing: **2000180**.

Do not hit refresh because that will send your submission to the end of the virtual line.

You will need a pin; Request it by email or else they will send it by mail and it will take longer.

Please try to be patient. Their phone lines and emails are very busy.

Food Assistance- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program:

Each month, SNAP benefits will load automatically onto an electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card called the Ohio Direction Card.

Clients use the same card every month to buy groceries at participating stores. The card is safe because no one can use it without the chosen four-digit PIN.

HOW TO APPLY:

Once you have completed, signed, and dated the application, you can submit it online via the link below, fax it to 1.866.351.8292 (toll-free), mail it to 1180 S. Main Street, Suite 102, Akron, OH 44301-1256, or bring it in. You must have an initial interview to determine your eligibility.

SNAP CONTINUED:

YOU WILL NEED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FOR EACH HOUSEHOLD MEMBER:

Social Security number

Photo identification

Alien registration card (if not a U.S. citizen)

Proof of income

Proof of shelter costs (rent or mortgage, utility bills, homeowner's insurance, property taxes, condo fees, second mortgages)

Childcare expenses

Child support paid to someone not living in the household

Child support received

Proof of disability, if claimed

Medical bills (for those 60 and older, or disabled)

Documents can be submitted on their website, by mail, in person or by email:

SummitE-Docs@jfs.ohio.gov

OWF- OHIO WORKS FIRST:

REQUIREMENTS:

MUST HAVE CHILDREN OR A DISABILITY

MUST WORK OR COMPLETE ASSIGNED HOURS BY CASE MANAGER

BE INCOME ELIGIBLE

Apply online or by mail.

You must complete a face-to-face or telephone interview to determine your eligibility.

HOW TO APPLY Once you have completed, signed, and dated the application, you can submit it online via the link below, fax it to 1.866.351.8292 (toll-free), mail it to 1180 S. Main Street, Suite 102, Akron, OH 44301-1256, or bring it in. You must have an initial interview to determine your eligibility.

OWF CONTINUED:

The same documents are needed as mentioned above.

These participants will be required to volunteer, do job skill classes or be enrolled in a vocational program, to remain eligible.

Once approved, you can receive your Ohio Works First monthly benefits by direct deposit into an existing checking or savings account or on the Ohio EppiCard Card. The Ohio EppiCard works like a debit card.

Be sure to report all changes as soon as possible such as employment hours, wages, moving residences, left the county etc. so that the case remains accurate and updated. Otherwise, an overpayment or underpayment could occur.

CHILDCARE-Title XX:

How to Apply:

No face-to-face interview is required and you only need to reapply once a year.

Apply online, print and mail in an application from their website or call in to Summit County Department of Job and Family Services at 330.643.7686 for an application.

The following information is necessary to process your application:

- Copies of your children's birth certificates and Social Security cards
- Copy of your driver's license or state identification
- Copies of your last four pay stubs and/or a letter from your employer
- Copy of your training schedule from school
- Documents can be submitted on their website, by mail, in person or by email:

SummitE-Docs@jfs.ohio.gov

TITLE XX CONTINUED:

*A list of in home and daycare centers is available online or can be requested by phone. Many options are available like evening hours, field trips, meals provided, transportation, etc.

<http://childcaresearch.ohio.gov/>

*The faster the documents are submitted and the daycare is chosen, the faster they have access to their benefits.

An assigned case worker will be given with a direct phone number. Changes in income, residence, parental rights and other criteria need to be communicated as soon as possible. Missed swipes, extra swipes and other issues with attendance per child, also need to be reported.

Additional Resources:

Call 2-1-1 for Summit County's United Way hotline

[United Way's Covid-19 Resource List :](#)
www.uwsummit.org/financialresources

To schedule a Financial Coaching appointment:
<https://www.uwsummit.org/FEC>

Job & Family Services link for SNAP, Title XX, Medicaid and TANF:
www.summitdjfs.org

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Questions?

tlr61@uakron.edu

ZipAssist: *Refer. Support. Retain.*



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330-972-7272



Simmons Hall



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The University of Akron