

GRATIOT COUNTY RESOURCE DIRECTORY

United Way of Gratiot County

525 N. State St, Suite 1

Alma, MI 48801

Phone: (989) 463-6245

Fax: (989) 466-2140

Website – info@uwgic.org

Gratiot County Health Department

151 Commerce Drive

Ithaca, MI 48847-1627

Phone: (989) 875-3681

Fax: (989) 875-3747

Website: www.mmdhd.org/

Department of Agricultural-Rural Housing Services

301 Commerce Dr.

Ithaca, MI 48847-1602

Phone: (989) 875-3900

Fax: (989) 875-4500

Department of Veteran Affairs

214 E. Center St.

Ithaca, MI 48847

Phone: (989) 875-5258

Email: veterans@gratiotmi.com

Assistance with utility bills, rent, mortgages, property taxes for veterans and/or spouses of veterans.

Salvation Army

425 Republic Avenue

Alma, MI 48801

Phone: (989) 463-2864

Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing – Offers emergency financial assistance with rent. Applicants need referrals from DHS, EightCAP, churches and other agencies to apply. Energy bills – Get help with paying heating and fuel bills and avoiding shut offs. Food pantry – It is located on-site and distributes free food, groceries, and other commodities.

Department of Human Services

201 Commerce Drive

Ithaca, MI 48847

Phone: (989) 875-5181

Fax: (989) 875-2811

Website: www.michigan.gov/dhs/

Services: Career Development, Case/Care Management, Child Abuse Reporting/Emergency Response, Child Care Subsidies, Food Stamps, Foster Home Placements, Job Search Resource Centers, TANF, Vocational Rehabilitation

Please contact them to see if you qualify for assistance with your mortgage, property taxes or condo association fees.

Legal Services of Eastern Michigan

320 S. Washington Avenue, Third Floor

Saginaw, Michigan 48607

Phone: (989) 755-4465

Toll Free: (800) 322-4512

Fax: (989) 755-2161

Legal Services of Eastern Michigan is a nonprofit organization that gives free civil legal help to low-income people. Our mission is to use legal skills to address the causes and effects of poverty, especially those that affect the survival needs of low-income people.

For information or help, call 1-800-322-4512

Office of Human Services

Food Pantry & Thrift Store

232 N. Mill St.

St. Louis, MI 48880

Phone: (989) 681-4289

Food Pantry: M-F 9:00 to 11:30

Thrift Store: M-F 9:00 to 12:15

Assistance with ONLY UTILITY BILLS. Their thrift store is to assist individuals in Gratiot County with emergency needs including food, clothing, household items and furniture. Other services include acting as advocates for those in need, a referral agency when applicable, helping with transportation to doctor's offices and hospitals, educating people of their rights and responsibilities, and teaching life skills.

Ithaca Community Food Pantry

Ithaca Presbyterian Church

218 E. Newark Street

Ithaca, MI 48847

Phone: (989) 875-4437

Ithaca Presbyterian Church is the site host of the Ithaca Community Food Pantry, an ecumenical partnership that seeks to provide supplemental food assistance for residents of southern Gratiot County. The food pantry is open every Wednesday from 9:30 am to 11:30 am and is open to residents who live south of Tyler Road, within Gratiot County lines. Proof of identification is required on each visit. Clients can visit the pantry six times per calendar year.

Alma Food Pantry

Alma First Presbyterian Church

495 Charles Avenue

Alma, MI 48801

Phone: (989) 463-2940

The Alma Food Pantry serves residents who live in Alma, Elwell, Riverdale, and Elm Hall. The food pantry is open the first four Tuesdays of each month from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm. Picture ID is required, as well as the names and birthdates of those living in the household.

Community Café/Soup Kitchen

Alma First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall

495 Charles Avenue

Alma, MI 48801

Phone: (989) 463-2940

A free meal is available to anyone who lives in Gratiot County on Thursday nights starting at 5:30 pm. Name sign in only.

**WHERE TO TURN TO FOR HELP –
If you cannot afford to pay your property taxes.**

Department of Human Services (DHS) – www.michigan.gov/dhs (989) 875-5181

Local Department of Human Services offices have several plans that may help to pay all or a portion of your delinquent taxes. You must meet the income guidelines for assistance.

Michigan Veterans Trust Fund (989) 875-5258

Financial assistance for delinquent taxes is available for war veterans and their families through the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund. Call the county office for information.

Commission on Aging (989) 875-5246

May be able to assist homeowners aged 60 or over with completion and filing of forms for income tax credits, for the Department of Human Services and other agencies as well as possibly locating other sources of assistance. Please call the office and ask for case manager.

MSU Extension Office (989) 875-5233

MSU Extension offers budgeting classes that can help you learn to set up a payment plan for your household bills, including property taxes. Call and ask for the Family and Consumer Sciences Educator.

EightCap, INC (989) 463-5693

Some funding sources may be available with referrals. Apply first through the Department of Human Services (see above).

MichiganWorks! www.michiganworks.org (989) 466-4832

Resources for re-entering the work force, including job search training computer classes, resume building. May also refer you to local Temp agencies such as Manpower, Peoplelink, and Qualified Staffing.

Greenpath Debt Solutions www.greenpath.com (800) 718-7077

There are additional credit and debt counseling services available. Please see Yellow Page listings. West Michigan Legal Services – www.legalaidwestmich.org/news (800) 442-2777. Lending Institutions Home equity loans or personal loans may be available to qualified homeowners. These loans require repayment and should only be sought from reputable lenders.

Family Members

Family members or heirs may be contacted to assist, particularly if they have an interest in the property.

Churches, Religious Organizations

Some churches and religion-based organizations such as Salvation Army may be able to assist with delinquent property taxes. In addition, some churches may have food banks and other assistance. Be certain that you have made the most of any exemptions and/or credits that you may qualify for.

File for your Principal Residence or Qualified Agricultural Exemption with your local Township

This may result in savings of approximately 40% of your total tax liability. You may also be eligible for a credit on taxes paid in prior years. If you qualify, please call your local assessor.

File for your Homestead Property Tax Credit/Home Heating Credit

Homeowners may be eligible for a partial property tax refund from the state through your income taxes. You may also be eligible for a Home Heating Credit Claim. Contact your tax preparer.

Disabled Veteran Exemption

Real estate owned and occupied as a homestead by a disabled veteran may be exempted from the property taxes up to 100% by the local boards of review. Contact your local assessor.

Request an Economic Hardship Appeal

Property owners can be exempted from current taxes, up to 100%, if economic hardship is granted by the local boards of review (March, July, or December). The board cannot go back – it is only for the current year. Contact your city or Township Treasurer or assessor. NOTE: You must file an Income Tax Return, even if your refund is zero.

Use partial payments to reduce interest penalties.

Many local Treasurers will accept partial payments. Once delinquent, Gratiot County Treasurer will also accept partial payments. Any partial payments made will save you interest. Contact your city or Township Treasurer.

Be sure to notify your local township of any changes in your mailing address.

Failure to notify your local assessor and/or Treasurer of a change in your mailing address may result in delays or you not getting your notices. This may result in additional penalties and interest that cannot be waived.

Your Local Township or City is often the first place to start.

There are various exemptions that exist within the General Property Tax law that you may qualify for. Some may help you every year, even if your taxes are not delinquent. See below and/or contact your local assessor or Treasurer.

Your County Treasurer may also be able to lend a hand

The law requires the Treasurer to review your income at a **Show Cause Hearing** and allows the Treasurer to grant financial hardships to property owners whose household income is at or below the federal poverty income standards. Granting of financial hardship status shall be for only current year(s) pending foreclosure; it extends only the time to pay the amount due (additional expenses, interest and penalties continue to accrue).

Call the Gratiot County Treasurer's Office at (989) 875-5220, M-F 8:00-4:30, with any questions.