Benton County, Tennessee

COMMUNITY RESOURCE GUIDE

Food • Housing • Utilities • Health • Family Support • Seniors • Veterans • Employment • Legal & Crisis Resources

“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” — Galatians 6:2

Need help figuring out who to call? Start here.
If a household has several needs at once, begin with Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council for emergency/basic-needs assistance, Tennessee DHS for SNAP and family benefits, and the Benton County Health Department for health and WIC services.

Important: Programs, funding, hours, eligibility rules and distribution schedules can change. Call ahead before traveling. This guide was compiled and checked in September 2026.

FOOD & NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

Benton County Ministerial Alliance

Address: 110 Armory Ave., Camden, TN 38320
Phone: 731-584-7744

Faith-based community assistance for Benton County residents. Services include food assistance and may include limited emergency help with rent or utilities when funding and eligibility allow. Call first for current pantry/distribution schedules and documentation requirements.

Benton County Ministerial Alliance - First United Methodist Church Food Distribution

Address: 104 N. Church Ave., Camden, TN 38320
Phone: 731-584-7744

A local food-distribution point connected with the Ministerial Alliance. Current local listings show a Thursday evening distribution window, but schedules can change.

Missionary Grove Church Food Assistance

Address: Camden, TN 38320

Local listings identify Missionary Grove Church as a food-box/pantry resource in the Camden area. Call the church or a local referral agency to confirm current distribution times before traveling.

Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee - Ray Smith Family Distribution Center

Address: 69 Benton Industrial Rd., Camden, TN 38320
Phone: 731-213-5075

This Camden facility is primarily a regional food distribution and logistics center rather than a walk-in pantry. Residents needing groceries can be directed to Second Harvest partner agencies and food distributions serving Benton County.

Tennessee Department of Human Services - Benton County Family Assistance Office

Address: 272 Hwy 641 N., Camden, TN 38320
Phone: 833-772-8347

Assists residents with SNAP food benefits and other family assistance programs. Office hours are generally Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

• SNAP / food assistance

• Families First (TANF)

• Child Care Certificate assistance

• Medicaid and TennCare-related assistance

Benton County Health Department - WIC

Address: 225 Hospital Dr., Camden, TN 38320
Phone: 731-584-4944

WIC provides nutrition support for eligible pregnant and postpartum women, infants and children. Contact the health department for enrollment, appointments and current eligibility requirements.

HOUSING & EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council - Benton County Service Center

Address: 560 Benton Industrial Rd., Camden, TN 38320
Phone: 731-584-7355

The county Community Action access point for income-eligible households. Depending on program funding, staff can help with energy assistance, emergency needs, referrals and self-sufficiency services.

• Ask about CSBG emergency assistance

• Ask about rent or housing-stability resources currently available

• Bring identification, household-income information and any past-due or shutoff notices when requested

Benton County Ministerial Alliance

Address: 110 Armory Ave., Camden, TN 38320
Phone: 731-584-7744

May provide limited partial rent or utility assistance to qualifying Benton County households when funds are available. Call before visiting to learn what documents are required.

Housing Assistance Navigation

Phone: 731-584-7355

Benton County does not have a clearly identified local public housing authority in current HUD-directory search results. For affordable-housing navigation, start with Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council and ask which regional housing programs currently serve your address.

UTILITY & ENERGY ASSISTANCE

LIHEAP - Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council

Address: 560 Benton Industrial Rd., Camden, TN 38320
Phone: 731-584-7355

LIHEAP helps eligible very-low-income households with home-energy costs. Regular and crisis assistance depend on program rules and available funds. For the 2026 program year, NWTEDC announced a temporary application pause after September 15 while preparing for the new LIHEAP year beginning October 1.

• Electric, natural gas and other qualifying home-energy costs

• Crisis assistance may be available for qualifying energy emergencies

• Call the Benton County office for current application status before visiting

Weatherization / Energy-Saving Assistance

Address: Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council
Phone: 731-584-7355

Ask the local service center about weatherization and related programs that may help qualifying households improve home energy efficiency and reduce utility costs.

MEDICAL & PUBLIC HEALTH

Benton County Health Department

Address: 225 Hospital Dr., Camden, TN 38320
Phone: 731-584-4944

The local Tennessee Department of Health clinic. Current listings show weekday hours of approximately 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Call for appointments and service availability.

• Immunizations and public-health services

• WIC and nutrition support

• Family planning and reproductive health services

• STI testing/counseling and other preventive health services

TennCare / Medicaid Assistance

Address: Tennessee DHS, 272 Hwy 641 N., Camden, TN 38320
Phone: 833-772-8347

The local DHS office can help residents connect with Medicaid/TennCare-related services and other family-assistance programs.

Mental Health Crisis Support

Phone: 988

Call or text 988 for the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. For a life-threatening emergency, call 911.

Tennessee Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services Helpline

Phone: 800-560-5767

Statewide information and referral line for mental-health and substance-use services. For addiction treatment referral, call or text the Tennessee REDLINE at 800-889-9789.

CHILDREN, PREGNANCY & FAMILY SUPPORT

Benton County Early Head Start

Address: 136 College Ave., Camden, TN 38320
Phone: 731-584-4953

Early Head Start serves infants, toddlers and eligible families and also includes services for pregnant mothers. Contact the center for enrollment and current eligibility.

Tennessee DHS - Family Assistance

Address: 272 Hwy 641 N., Camden, TN 38320
Phone: 833-772-8347

A key starting point for families needing food, cash, child-care or health-benefit assistance.

• SNAP

• Families First (TANF)

• Child Care Payment Assistance

• Medicaid / TennCare assistance

Benton County Schools

Address: 115 Schools Dr., Camden, TN 38320
Phone: 731-584-7254

Contact the school system for enrollment, school nutrition, student support and school-based resource referrals.

SENIOR CITIZEN RESOURCES

Benton County Office on Aging / Senior Citizens Center

Address: 234 W. Main St., Camden, TN 38320
Phone: 731-584-4101

County senior-services office and community resource point. Contact the office for current programs, senior activities, nutrition resources, transportation referrals and aging-service navigation.

Benton Senior Citizen Center

Address: 119 Cole Ave., Camden, TN 38320
Phone: 731-584-3627

Community center for older adults offering social, recreation and wellness opportunities. Local resource listings also connect the senior-services network with meal support and Meals on Wheels coordination.

Big Sandy Senior Citizens

Address: 224 2nd St., Big Sandy, TN 38221
Phone: 731-593-3977

Senior center and community gathering place serving Big Sandy and surrounding Benton County residents.

Tennessee Home-Delivered Meals / Meals on Wheels

Phone: 800-535-9725

Tennessee's aging-services network can connect older adults to local home-delivered meal providers. Eligibility and availability vary, so the Benton County Office on Aging is also a good local starting point.

VETERAN SERVICES

Benton County Veteran's Services

Address: Benton County Courthouse, 1 E. Court Square, Room 100, Camden, TN 38320
Phone: 731-584-1316

Local county point of contact for veterans and their families seeking help navigating veterans benefits, claims and referrals.

• VA benefit and claim guidance

• State veterans-benefit navigation

• Referrals for veterans and surviving family members

Veterans Crisis Line

Phone: 988, then press 1

Veterans and service members in crisis can call 988 and press 1, or text 838255.

EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING & DISABILITY SUPPORT

Northwest Tennessee Workforce Board / American Job Center - Camden

Address: 145 Hospital Dr., Camden, TN 38320
Phone: 731-584-1711

Local workforce-development access point for job seekers and employers. Ask about job-search assistance, career planning, training programs and WIOA eligibility.

Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Address: 272 Hwy 641 N., Camden, TN 38320
Phone: 833-751-0597

Employment-related support for eligible people with disabilities. Call the intake number to be routed to the correct team and confirm appointment details.

Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council

Address: 560 Benton Industrial Rd., Camden, TN 38320
Phone: 731-584-7355

Community Action services may include employment and self-sufficiency supports or referrals for income-eligible households.

FREE & LOW-COST LEGAL HELP

West Tennessee Legal Services

Address: Nearest office: 113 W. Paris St., Huntingdon, TN 38344
Phone: 800-372-8346

Provides no-cost civil legal aid to eligible residents of Benton County. An appointment is required and services are limited based on eligibility, case type and available resources.

• Housing and shelter-related civil issues

• Public benefits, TennCare, Medicare, SSI and disability matters

• Family-law assistance in certain cases

• Expungement and reentry-related assistance

Benton County Public Library / Help4TN Resource Access

Address: Camden, TN

Help4TN lists Benton County legal and social-service contacts and can be useful for locating court, legal-aid and community resources.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & PERSONAL SAFETY

Benton County Domestic Violence Resource / Shelter Contact

Address: 138 College Ave., Camden, TN 38320
Phone: 731-584-1100

Local legal-resource directories identify this Benton County contact for domestic-violence shelter assistance. Because shelter operations and confidential-location procedures can change, call first for current services and safe intake instructions.

National Domestic Violence Hotline

Phone: 800-799-7233

Free confidential support. Text START to 88788. If someone is in immediate danger, call 911.

SUBSTANCE USE & RECOVERY

Tennessee REDLINE

Phone: 800-889-9789

Free, confidential statewide referral for addiction treatment and recovery services. Call or text for help locating appropriate services.

Tennessee Mental Health & Substance Abuse Helpline

Phone: 800-560-5767

Information and referral for mental-health, substance-use and recovery-support services. State recovery programs may include case management, transitional housing, transportation, employment skills and recovery supports for eligible residents.

EMERGENCY, DISASTER & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Benton County Sheriff / Central Dispatch

Address: 116 Rosemary Ave., Camden, TN 38320
Phone: 731-584-4632

For emergencies call 911. The Sheriff's Office / Central Dispatch provides county law-enforcement and dispatch services.

Camden Police Department

Address: 119 Main St. W., Camden, TN 38320
Phone: 731-584-4622

City law-enforcement contact for Camden. Call 911 for emergencies.

American Red Cross - Benton County

Address: 102 E. Main St., Camden, TN 38320
Phone: 731-584-6333

Local disaster-response and emergency-support contact listed by Benton County Government.

Benton County Government

Address: 1 Courthouse Square, Camden, TN
Phone: 731-584-6011

County government can help route residents to departments including emergency management, health, aging, veterans services and other county programs.

QUICK REFERENCE - IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Need	Contact
Emergency police / fire / medical	911
Mental health or suicide crisis	988
Veterans crisis	988, press 1
Domestic violence hotline	800-799-7233
Tennessee addiction treatment referral	800-889-9789
TN mental health/substance use helpline	800-560-5767
Benton County DHS / SNAP / Families First	833-772-8347
NWTEDC - Benton County	731-584-7355
Benton County Health Department	731-584-4944
Benton County Ministerial Alliance	731-584-7744
Benton County Office on Aging	731-584-4101
Benton County Veterans Services	731-584-1316
West Tennessee Legal Services	800-372-8346
American Job Center / Workforce	731-584-1711

WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START

1. Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council - 731-584-7355
Start here for LIHEAP, emergency/basic-needs assistance, housing-stability referrals and Community Action programs.

2. Tennessee DHS - 833-772-8347
Start here for SNAP, Families First, child-care assistance and Medicaid/TennCare-related help.

3. Benton County Health Department - 731-584-4944
Start here for WIC, public-health services, immunizations and preventive health resources.

4. Benton County Ministerial Alliance - 731-584-7744
A strong local starting point for food assistance and limited emergency rent/utility help when available.

Tip: When calling for financial assistance, have photo ID, proof of Benton County residence, household-income information, the bill or shutoff/eviction notice, and household-member information available if possible. Each program sets its own documentation requirements.

Compiled for community use. Please verify hours, eligibility and funding directly with each organization before relying on the information.