

SAULT STE. MARIE HOUSING COMMISSION

November 2025 Newsletter



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CHRISTMAS ASSISTANCE ✨

The Salvation Army is providing Christmas gift assistance for qualifying families in Chippewa County! This program aims to support families during the holiday season. Applications for residents will be accepted at 132 W. Spruce Street on the following dates and times:

- **Thursday, November 13th:** 9:00am - 1:00pm
- **Friday, November 14th:** 1:00pm - 5:00pm
- **Saturday, November 15th:** 9:00am - 1:00pm
- **Saturday, December 6th:** 10:00am - 4:00pm

Assistance eligibility is based on income. To ensure your application is processed, please bring the following items:

- **Picture ID of the Applicant:** Driver's License, State ID, Tribal ID, or Passport.
- **Verification for All Household Members:** Birth Certificates, Medicaid Cards, or Social Security Cards.
- **Documentation of Household Income:** Pay Stubs, Social Security Statements, Proof of Cash Assistance, Bridge Card, or WIC.
- **Evidence of Current Address (if different from ID):** Utility Bill, Mail, or Lease Agreement.

Distribution days are scheduled for December 18th and December 19th.

LSSU ICE HOCKEY



The Lake Superior State University Men's Ice Hockey team is set to kick off their home season at Taffy Abel Arena on 650 Meridian St. With a history that includes multiple national championships, LSSU Hockey delivers fast-paced action and fun game-day experiences for the whole family. You can watch the Lakers in action on the following dates and times:

- **Nov 14th:** vs. Minnesota State – 7:07pm
- **Nov 15th:** vs. Minnesota State – 6:07pm
- **Nov 28th:** vs. Augustana – 7:07pm
- **Nov 29th:** vs. Augustana – 6:07pm

LIGHTING UP THE STATE: THE SOO'S CHRISTMAS TREE



A 68-foot spruce from Sault Ste. Marie has been chosen by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget as the official 39th State of Michigan Christmas Tree! The tree was generously donated by a local resident in honor of her grandparents. After being harvested, the tree will be transported to Lansing on November 1st, where it will be placed on the Capitol lawn with the assistance of local Boy Scout troops and the Hi-Ball Company of Lansing.

Once in position, the City of Lansing Forestry Team will prepare the tree for decorations and lighting, designed by the Michigan Capitol Commission in collaboration with the Lansing Board of Water & Light.

The tree-lighting ceremony will be part of the 41st Annual Silver Bells in the City celebration on November 21st, at 7:30pm in Lansing, Michigan. Our community is proud to share a piece of Sault Ste. Marie with the entire state this holiday season! More details of the event can be found at www.silverbellsinthecity.com.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

5th Annual Fall Fest

The Immanuel Lutheran Church and Little Lambs Early Childhood Center is hosting their 5th Annual Fall Fest! Enjoy a fun-filled afternoon with games, crafts, and dance performances. They will also be providing food like chili, hot dogs, and cider. This festive event is located on 615 Washington Way, on November 8, 2025 from 12:00pm - 4:00pm.

LSSU Arts Center Concert

The LSSU Arts Center Music Department will host its Showcase Concert on November 1, 2025 at 1:00pm in the Arts Center. This event is FREE and open to the public. Enjoy performances by all LSSU music ensembles as well as featured soloists. Come support our talented student musicians in this exciting afternoon of music.

Winter Farmer's Market

Beginning November 1, 2025, celebrate the arrival of winter with a delightful array of goods, including handmade crafts, soaps, candles, jewelry, plants, and more, every Saturday morning from 10:00am - 12:30pm at the Bayliss Public Library.



FOOD PANTRIES

Feeding America: Upper Peninsula

- Thursday, November 13, 2025 at 4:00 pm. Located at the Big Bear Arena (Chi Mukwa) on 2 Ice Circle, Sault Ste. Marie, MI.

The Salvation Army

132 W. Spruce St: 906-632-6521

- Pantry: by appointment only.
- Community Kitchen: Mon-Fri (12pm-12:30pm)
- Bread Rack: Mon/Wed/Fri (10am-12pm) and Tues/Thur (10am-12pm & 12:30pm-3:30pm)

First Church of Christ

300 W. Spruce St: 906-632-6511

- Mon-Wed (9am-11am)

First United Presbyterian Church

555 Bingham Ave: 906-632-7771

- 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month (3:30pm-5pm)

St Joseph's Catholic Church

1101 Minneapolis St: 906-632-9625

- Every Tuesday (2pm-3pm)

CLM Community Action Agency

524 Ashmun St: 906-632-3363

- Mon-Fri (9am-4pm)



SENIOR MEAL PROGRAMS

Congregate Meal Program

Nutritious lunches are served at the Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac Community Action dining site, where seniors can enjoy a meal in a welcoming group setting. If you are aged 60 years or older, you are eligible to attend. The dining site is open Monday-Friday at noon and located in the Calery Center on 524 Ashmun Street.

Home Delivered Meals Program

This program is designed to assist home-bound seniors with their dietary needs. Each and every meal is a blend of good taste and balanced nutrition and is delivered to the homes of seniors who are not able to attend Congregate Meal Sites. The Home Delivered Meal Program provides meals for seven days a week. The recommended donation is \$3.00 per meal.

Eligibility Requirements:

- You or your spouse must be 60 years of age or older.
- You are home-bound and cannot leave your home independently.
- You are unable to prepare meals and have no other access to a nutritionally balanced diet.

To apply for the Home Delivered Meals Program, contact the Community Action Agency at 906-632-3363.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

The USDA Food Distribution Program offers nutritious foods to low-income individuals and families. It is available to enrolled members of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, as well as members of other federally recognized tribes residing in Chippewa County.

Applications may take up to seven business days to process. Applicants must provide a Sault Tribe membership card or proof of enrollment in another federally recognized tribe, along with household income information for the past month for all household members. USDA commodities cannot be received in the same month that food stamps are used.

To view the additional application requirements, visit: www.saulttribe.com/membership-services/acfs/direct-services/usda-food-distribution-program.

4-FORMS

Any changes in your household must be reported **within ten (10) business days of receiving notice.** This includes updates such as new employment, job loss, changes in pay, child support, a minor starting a job, unemployment benefits, changes in SSI/Social Security, pension or retirement earnings, household size, childcare expenses, cash assistance, etc.

Updates cannot be made via phone or email; you must complete the 4-forms. To avoid retroactive rent charges that can accumulate quickly, complete and submit these forms as soon as possible.

ANNUAL RECERTIFICATION & INSPECTIONS

When you receive notice that it is time for your Annual Recertification, you may wonder why it's scheduled three months before your original move-in date. We start this process early to ensure we can complete the necessary verifications and file processing before your annual move-in date.

The notice will also include the dates when maintenance will enter your home for the annual inspection. You do not need to be present for this inspection. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our office.

WORK ORDERS

Any damages or work orders not reported when they occur and later discovered during an inspection are considered lease violations. As outlined in your lease, you must report these issues promptly. Be sure to notify us as soon as they arise to avoid any potential violations.

HOUSEKEEPING

When signing your lease for subsidized housing, you agreed to the specific requirements needed to keep your eligibility. Subsidized housing means that a portion of your rent is paid by the federal government, depending on your income. Although we understand there are many regulations associated with federally subsidized housing, these requirements are necessary in order to receive reduced rent. For instance, in Chippewa County, the fair market rent for a 3-bedroom unit is \$1,278/month.

Housekeeping is crucial and HUD has established standards for what is considered acceptable. These standards are outlined in your lease. When maintenance enters your home, they will assess and document its condition. If they find it below HUD standards, it will be reported, and you may receive notice of a follow-up housekeeping inspection. Sub-standard housekeeping will be a lease violation and you will be placed on biweekly housekeeping inspections. Three (3) violations within a calendar year could lead to the termination of your lease.

If you need assistance maintaining these standards, there are agencies and programs that may be able to help you. We strongly encourage you to inquire about eligibility for assistance. Any further questions, please contact our office and ask to speak with our Resource Manager, Jim.



REMINDERS!



- **Rent is DUE November 1st.** If rent is not paid by the end of day on November 5th, a \$10.00 late fee will be added to your account, along with an additional \$1.00 per day until payment is made.
- We do not accept cash payments. Acceptable forms of payment include a Personal Check, Cashier's Check, Money Order, or Online Payment.
- Our office lobby is open to the public Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm. While the lobby closes at 4:00pm, staff are available by phone until 5:00pm.
- The office vestibule is open 24/7. You can pick up or drop off forms at any time.

Our office will be closed on November 11th, November 27th, and November 28th.



STAFF DIRECTORY

Executive Director

candy@saulthousing.com

Deputy Director

lauren@saulthousing.com

Occupancy Specialist - Family Housing

jodi@saulthousing.com

Occupancy Specialist - Senior Housing

melissa@saulthousing.com

Accounts Payable/Receivable & Collections

allison@saulthousing.com

Section 8/Resource Manager

jim@saulthousing.com

Administrative Assistant

wendyh@saulthousing.com

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jennifer Dunton, President

Michael B. Winnick, Vice-President

Jennifer LaBonte, Treasurer

Bridget Akre, Commissioner

Ancilla Lee, Resident Commissioner

Board meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month at 12:00pm in our office, located on 608 Pine Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI.

Meeting dates may be subject to change

**SUBMIT YOUR RENTAL PAYMENT ONLINE
BY SCANNING THE QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE!**



OFFICE INFORMATION

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Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

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