



## Making Referrals to Britepaths' Programs

### Our Programs

Britepaths' programs are designed to help individuals and families in the Fairfax County area who are struggling to make ends meet. Often, they are working hard, but they live paycheck-to-paycheck. Any kind of unexpected expense, such as a car repair, rent hike or medical expenses, can throw them into a financial crisis.

**Social workers must make a referral** for clients to receive most of Britepaths' services. Services are available to clients who are residents of Fairfax County, including jurisdictions that are situated in the County (Cities of Fairfax and Falls Church and Towns of Herndon and Vienna). Britepaths is a second-tier provider to the Route 1 Corridor. This sheet provides a brief description of our programs for your consideration when assisting clients you serve. **Referral forms, zip code list and more information are available on our Referrals page at: <https://britepaths.org/referrals>.**

### Stabilizing Families – Temporary Emergency Services

**Food Assistance:** Britepaths' **Food Bridge Program** offers short-term food assistance (up to six months) to qualified Fairfax County residents who have been referred to the Program and are able to receive deliveries of non-perishable food items to their homes on two Sundays each month. Our **Food Support Program** offers clients who are in a crisis situation an emergency food packing that consists of non-perishable food, a modest grocery store gift card, and toiletries. The packing must be picked up at Britepaths' office by appointment. Britepaths' **Our Daily Veggies** farmers market voucher program allows Food Bridge clients to purchase fresh produce and protein from participating vendors at local farmers markets during the season. Our **Food4Thought Program** partners with a number of Fairfax County Public Schools to provide support to their social workers and PTAs to provide weekend food assistance to children with identified need at their schools. Referral forms for our Food Bridge and Food Support programs are available on our Referrals page. **Contact:** Christina Garris at [cgarris@britepaths.org](mailto:cgarris@britepaths.org) or 703.273.8829 with questions.

**Financial Assistance:** Britepaths provides help with rent, utility bills, prescriptions and automotive repairs. These one-time financial grants are intended to help remedy a financial setback brought on by a crisis. Britepaths only accepts referrals for Financial Assistance that are made through Fairfax County's Coordinated Services Planning office. Please contact or ask your client to contact 703.222.0880 to request a referral. The request does not guarantee that Britepaths will be able to provide the service. **Contact:** Diana De La Rosa at [ddelarosa@britepaths.org](mailto:ddelarosa@britepaths.org) or 703.273.8829 with questions.

### Building Resilience – Promoting Long-Term Self-Sufficiency

**Financial Literacy:** Britepaths requires a referral from a Social Worker with Fairfax County or qualified Community Based Organizations or Faith Based Organizations for those wishing to receive **Financial Mentoring Services**. Clients who are referred for mentoring services must attend a Basic Budgeting class and will then be screened for suitability to be matched with a mentor. **Basic Budgeting** (Thrifty Thursdays) and other classes Britepaths advertises are open to the public. No referral is needed, but we ask that you or the client RSVP. Britepaths also partners with United Community Ministries in Alexandria and Western Fairfax Christian Ministries in Chantilly to offer free **Financial Counseling Clinics**. Clients may visit our Financial Literacy page to learn about all our Financial Literacy services. **Contact:** Marcelle Miles at [mmiles@britepaths.org](mailto:mmiles@britepaths.org) or 703.273.8829.

**Project BRIDGE:** Project BRIDGE Program clients work intensively over a year or more with a volunteer Financial Mentor and Britepaths staff to set and achieve financial and career development goals that will help them become financially independent. A good candidate for the Program has a positive attitude, a responsible and reliable nature, and willingness to set and achieve goals. Clients must be employed 30+ hours, be a High School graduate or have earned GED, proficient in English, possess computer competency skills, and have reliable transportation. A referral from a social worker is helpful, but not absolutely required. We will also consider self-referrals. **Contact:** Jill Beres at [jberes@britepaths.org](mailto:jberes@britepaths.org) or 703.273.8829.



## Making Referrals to Britepaths' Programs (continued)

### Building Resilience – Promoting Long-Term Self-Sufficiency (continued)

**Network Up** is a short-term mentoring opportunity that pairs under- or un-employed men and women with a mentor who is a professional in their mentee's desired job sector. The mentor and mentee meet 2 - 5 times over a 2 month period at an area coffee shop or other casual environment that fosters rapport. During these meetings, the mentor and mentee engage in career conversations focused on issues commonly faced by individuals attempting to enter or re-enter the job market such as professional networking; job interviewing; and career planning. **Network Up is NOT a job placement program. Rather, the goal is to increase a mentee's professional network.** Potential clients may refer themselves, or a social worker may make the referral **Contact:** Jill Beres at [jberes@britepaths.org](mailto:jberes@britepaths.org) or 703.273.8829.

**Financial Empowerment Center at South County:** Britepaths manages the Financial Empowerment Center (FEC) at the South County Government Center through a grant from the United Way of the National Capital Area and Fairfax County. Financial Empowerment Centers through the United Way are family-friendly places where hard-working, low-income people can access a range of financially empowering services to move themselves out of poverty and achieve long-term financial stability. The FEC at South County offers Financial Coaching by appointment and frequently schedules budgeting classes and financial workshops. A full list of services is available at <http://FECSoco.org> and appointments may be made through the website or by calling the center. Clients may access services without a referral. **Contact:** [info@FECSoco.org](mailto:info@FECSoco.org) or 703.704.6101.

### Seasonal Supports – Programs to Offset Stressful Costs

**Collect for Kids Back to School:** Britepaths' Collect for Kids Back to School Program partners with Fairfax County's Collect for Kids initiative to purchase and distribute school supplies to the schools it serves at a significant discount. During July and August, Britepaths collects financial donations, backpacks and scientific calculators to assist students in the Fairfax High School and J.E.B. Stuart High School pyramids, and other Fairfax County Public Schools where a need is identified and a partnership is made. Britepaths works with FCPS to determine the school pyramids it will assist early in the year and contacts and provides applications to social workers or counselors in schools in those pyramids in the spring. Britepaths then orders supplies for those schools based on the orders that have been placed by social workers and distributes supplies to the schools in mid-August. The partner schools distribute the supplies to students that they identify as having need. Britepaths does not distribute supplies directly to families. Families in need of assistance should contact the social worker or counselor at their children's school. **Contact:** Joanne Walton at: [jwalton@britepaths.org](mailto:jwalton@britepaths.org) or 703.273.8829.

**Holiday:** Britepaths' Holiday Program seeks to assist low-income individuals and families throughout the Fairfax County area with Thanksgiving and December holiday meals and gifts for children (under 18) for the December holidays. Britepaths primarily serves families by matching them with community members and organizations who "sponsor" families for meals and/or gifts. We also seek financial donations so that we can provide gift cards to families who are not sponsored. Britepaths primarily receives referrals for Holiday assistance in the fall through the Holiday Assistance clearinghouse contracting with Fairfax County. **Contact:** Joanne Walton at: [jwalton@britepaths.org](mailto:jwalton@britepaths.org) or 703.273.8829.