

Rock Valley College

Community Resources

Rock Valley College and the communities we serve offer a variety of resources to students and their families throughout special circumstances. This document offers a sampling of community resources available outside of Rock Valley College.

General, Comprehensive Support

- [City of Rockford Community Action Programs](#); (779) 348-7300
- [Goodwill Industries of Northern Illinois](#)
- [The Workforce Connection](#); (815) 847-7574 – Offers resources, like transportation and childcare, to help individuals obtain employment in Northern Illinois, including **FREE tuition up to \$13,000 for eligible students for 67 programs at Rock Valley College.**
- [Illinois Department of Human Resources](#); (815) 987-7620 – Provides "one-stop" centers for cash and medical assistance, food stamps, and job services.

Support by Special Population

There are nine special populations (defined by Perkins) that include students with disabilities, students who are economically disadvantaged, students preparing for nontraditional careers, students who are single parents, students who are out-of-workforce, students who are experiencing homelessness, students who are English learners, students who are military-connected, and students who have aged out of foster care.

Students with Disabilities

- [The Arc of Winnebago, Boone, and Ogle Counties](#); (815) 965-3455 – Serves people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families through a variety of programs, services, and activities.
- [Rosecrance](#); (866) 330-8729 – Offers care for mood disorders (like bipolar disorder, major depression), anxiety disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and more.
- [Bridgeway](#); (815) 962-8333 – Provides employment services and opportunities for people with disabilities as well as developmental disability services.
- [RAMP](#); (815) 968-7467 or (815) 968-7612 – Offers employment services.
- [Illinois Department of Rehabilitation Services](#); (815) 967-3725 – Provides employment, education, and independent living opportunities.

Students who are Economically Disadvantaged

- [St. Elizabeth Catholic Community Center](#); (815) 965-6993 – Offers a free food pantry, free clothing closet, and job resources through Project HIRE.
- [Com Ed Payment Assistance](#); (888) 806-2273 – Provides payment assistance through due date extensions, deposit and late payment charge waivers, LIHEAP (federal program), and other programs for those eligible.
- [Illinois Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program \(LIHEAP\)](#); (217) 785-2533 – Assists eligible low-income households one-time with paying winter energy services.
- [Illinois Low Income Household Water Assistance Program \(LIHWAP\)](#); (877) 411-9276 – Provides a limited, one-time assistance program designed to help eligible households that are facing the threat of imminent disconnection, have already been

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disconnected, or have past due (arrearage) balances over \$50 for their water and wastewater services combined.

- [Illinois Weatherization Assistance Program](#) – Helps low-income residents save fuel and money, while increasing the comfort of their homes.
- [Laundry Love Rockford](#); (815) 742-9197 or (815) 519-7503 – Provides free, regular opportunities to people struggling financially by assisting them with their laundry.
- [Universal Telephone Assistance Programs](#); (800) 524-0795 – Helps eligible, low-income consumers pay for installation of telephone service and monthly charges for local phone service through the Lifeline and Link-Up Telephone assistance programs.

Students Preparing for Nontraditional Careers

- [Illinois WorkNet](#) – Provides a free, online resource for career, education, and work support information for all Illinois residents and businesses.
- [Mapping Your Future](#) – Take a guided tour of planning a career. Get help choosing a career and tips on job hunting, resume writing, and job interviewing techniques.
- [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#) – Provides a starting place to search for employment information on specific occupations, based on data supplied by the federal government.

Students who are Single Parents, Single Pregnant Women

- [Catholic Charities of Rockford Adolescent Outreach to Teens who are Pregnant and Parenting](#); (815) 544-5434 – Offers free support to help you manage your new life and connect you with services and assistance in your community, including education, employment, transportation, childcare, housing, health care, social networks, public aid, and emergency assistance. We will help you learn to develop parenting skills, handle health concerns, build your self-esteem, make effective decisions and work on relationships. We will also help you learn practical skills like budgeting and paying bills, shopping, and cooking, creating, and living with daily schedules and routines that will work for you and becoming independent.
- [Catholic Charities of Rockford Pregnancy and Parenting Program](#); (815) 544-5434 – Offers Earn While You Learn, a free program that provides an opportunity to earn credits to acquire materials like maternity and baby clothes, blankets, diapers, formula, and many other much needed baby supplies. Access regular videos and worksheets that will teach important, useful, and interesting information about pregnancy and raising a child.
- [YWCA Child Care Resource & Referral Program](#); (815) 968-9681 – The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) program exists to help income-eligible families who work or go to school pay for some of the cost of childcare (including childcare by a relative). Application required, including employment/education verification. Provides childcare referrals and consumer education to parents, offers training opportunities and technical assistance to childcare providers, works to develop new childcare options, and assists employers in meeting their employees' childcare needs.
- [Belvidere Park District After School Care/3rd Base](#) – CCAP-eligible. Safety, fun, and new experiences are at the forefront of what we value. While each site is independent with a varied schedule, each site will offer a variety of activities daily. These include games, homework time, outside playtime, crafts, snacks, special events and parties, and free time to interact with and hang out with their peers in a safe and structured environment.
- Childcare centers that are open late:

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- [All God's Children Weecare](#); (815) 393-1591 – CCAP-eligible. Located in Rockford, IL open 6 a.m. to 11:45 p.m.
- [Mrs. Dee's ABCs](#); (608) 346-4698 – CCAP-eligible. Location: 1712 Colorado Avenue, Rockford, IL open 5 a.m. to 11 p.m.
- [Merri's Daycare](#); (815) 218-5814 – CCAP-eligible. Location: 1325 Post Avenue, Rockford, IL open 6 a.m. to 12 a.m.
- [PlayTime Daycare](#); (815) 519-4633 – Possibly CCAP-eligible, contact program to verify. Location: 2615 S 6th St., Rockford, IL open 6 a.m. to 12 a.m.
- [Northwest Community Center After School Program & Middle School Teen Center and Leadership Program](#); (815) 964-6885 – CCAP-eligible. Youth after school programming will be offered Monday-Friday for K-6th grade students from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. The program includes dinner, snacks, homework help, recreation activities, and much more! Middle School programming will be offered Monday-Friday from 4-6:30 p.m. Activities include mentoring, academic support, field trips, and speakers.
- [Rock House Kids](#); (815) 962-5067 – Open Monday-Thursday from 5-8 p.m., they provide a free, safe, and warm place that includes a hot meal and daily essentials for kids in grades 1-12. During the evening program, children are served a hot meal, enjoy music and a Bible lesson time to teach basic life skills, encourage the kids to do their best in school, and develop positive goals for their futures. At the end of each evening, the children leave with a bag of kid-friendly, non-perishable food items to help sustain them when they are away from our program. Throughout the year we provide the children with important items such as coats, shoes, boots, socks, hats and mittens, hygiene supplies, blankets and pillows, flashlights, school supplies, and even birthday and Christmas gifts.
- [Rockford Park District After School Program & Teen/Tween Evening or Out-of-School Program \(Washington Park Community Center\)](#) – May be CCAP-eligible, contact program to verify. Youth after school programming will be offered Monday-Friday for K-5th grade students from 2-6 p.m. Activities for this program consist of homework help, arts and crafts, and general recreation activities. For 6th-9th grade students, activities include homework help, arts and crafts, fitness activities, a teen leadership program, gaming systems and general recreational activities. Tween/teen evening programming includes leadership program, computer lab access, open gym times, and specialty arts programming.
- [Salvation Army](#); (815) 972-1135 – May be CCAP-eligible, contact program to verify. Offers many programs for families including After-School Programs, Character-Building & Mentoring Programs, Teen Center, Recreational, Sports & Fitness Programs, Music, Visual and Dramatic Arts Education, Camps and Pathway of Hope.
- [St. Elizabeth Catholic Community Center Early Childhood Development Program](#); (815) 969-6526 – CCAP-eligible. The hours are from 5:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. with Extended Care Program for ages 5-12 from 5:30-9 a.m. and 2-5:30 p.m. Bus service to and from RPS205 schools.
- [YMCA Kids' Time Before & After School](#) in [Winnebago County](#) and [Belvidere Family YMCA](#) – CCAP-eligible. Family-centered, value-based programs to nurture children's healthy development. Children participate in fun and educational activities that help them achieve their goals, make new friends, and belong. The program is built upon the YMCA Core Values of Caring, Honesty, Respect, Responsibility, and Faith.
- [YMCA Camp Winnebago](#); (815) 489-3374 – CCAP-eligible. A place where youth of all ages can develop leadership and life skills in programs that emphasize the YMCA core values of caring, honesty, respect, responsibility, and faith. Home to Summer Day Camps, Youth Education Programs, and Team Building & Adventure Course Programs.

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- [Brightpoint \(formerly Children's Home & Aid\)](#); (815) 962-1043 – Provides programs for parent support (prenatal, home visiting, family support and fatherhood), child welfare, mental health and wellness, early childhood care and education (home-based early learning, childcare resources, and assistance) as well as youth services (coaching, mentoring, youth counseling services and referrals).
- [Brightpoint Crisis Nursery \(formerly Mother House\)](#); (309) 834-5260 – Provides emergency childcare for families affected by homelessness, domestic violence, mental health/substance abuse issues, or a home crisis as well as court-related childcare. They also have a supervised family visitation center.
- [YWCA La Voz Latina](#); (815) 968-9681 – Offers many services that are free to eligible individuals or families, including information and referral services; [One-on-one parenting classes](#) and adult education workshops; Advocacy for at-risk and in-crisis families; [Immigrant Family Resource Program](#), including case management to help follow up after application and appeals, as necessary; [Access to Justice](#) (social services program), including deportation defense and immigrant rights; Assisting families involved or at-risk of involvement with the DCFS system to reunify with their children or other resources; [Healthy Families Home Visiting Program](#) to eliminate at-risk factors through home visits, connection to community service agencies, parenting information, referral to early intervention, and developmental screenings.
- [Winnebago County Health Department: Women and Children](#); (815) 720-4000 – Eligible individuals may qualify for services for free or based on ability to pay. Resources are available for Pregnancy (testing, urgent maternal warning signs, better birth outcomes, family planning, support with nutritious food [WIC], birth certificate) and Babies and Children Under 5 (support with breastfeeding and nutritious foods [WIC], home visiting programs, childhood immunizations, lead screening, oral health).
- [Children's Safe Harbor](#); (815) 316-7772 – We are a free, post-separation service that provides a safe place for children to connect with family through our non-evaluative supervised visitations or child exchange services.
- Domestic violence shelters for women and children
 - National Domestic Violence Hotline: 800.799.7233
 - [Remedies](#); (815) 966-1285 or 24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline: (815) 962-6102.
 - Rockford Rescue Mission Women's Crisis Center; (815) 316-4198
- [Laundry Love Rockford](#); (815) 742-9197 or (815) 519-7503 – Provides free, regular opportunities for people struggling financially by assisting them with their laundry.

Students who are Out-of-Workforce

- [Illinois Department of Employment Security](#); (217) 558-0401 – Apply for unemployment insurance, certify for benefits, and search for employment.
- [Illinois Department of Rehabilitation Services](#); (815) 967-3725 – Provides employment and education opportunities.
- [Salvation Army](#); (815) 972-1135 – Offers many free programs including Pathway of Hope, a comprehensive case management system to help families identify barriers to self-sufficiency (unemployment, insecure housing, lack of job skills, lack of childcare, etc.), provides guidance on how to address these barriers, and connects families with community support organizations.
- [St. Elizabeth Catholic Community Center](#); (815) 965-6993 – Provides a free food pantry and clothing closet as well as job resources through Project HIRE.

Students Experiencing Homelessness

- [The Continuum of Care \(CoC\) – Northern Illinois Homeless Coalition](#) – **Single Point of Contact for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness in the Rockford Area:** contact

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(844) 710-6919, ext. 5. All homeless persons (on streets or in shelters) and homeless youth, veterans, and survivors of domestic violence access housing services through Chance4Change, a single point of entry for the homeless in our community. They are assessed for permanent housing and a housing plan is developed. Housing assistance programs include Rapid Rehousing for those on the street or in shelters, Homeless Prevention of rent or mortgage assistance to remain housed and Condemnation Relocation with one-month payment at a new location.

- [Laundry Love Rockford](#); (815) 742-9197 or (815) 519-7503 –Provides free, regular opportunities for people struggling financially by assisting them with their laundry.
- [Northern Illinois Regional Affordable Community Housing \(NI ReACH\)](#); (815) 963-2133 – NI ReACH administers programs for Winnebago County Housing Authority and Boone County Housing Authority to provide homes and supportive services.
- [Rockford Health & Human Services Community Action Programs](#); (779) 348-7300; Also available through the Single Point of Entry: (844) 710-6919 – They offer Housing Assistance Programs, Foster Youth Housing Assistance Program, Scholarships, Energy Assistance, and Job Training Programs.
- [Rockford Housing Authority](#); (815) 489-8500; Also available through the Single Point of Entry: (844) 710-6919 – Offer Emergency Vouchers for Housing and Low-Income Public Housing, FSS Home Ownership, and the Housing Choice Voucher Program.
- [Shelter Care Ministries Supportive Housing for Families](#); (815) 964-5520); Also available through the Single Point of Entry: (844) 710-6919 – Offer Emergency Housing, Transitional Housing, Rapid Rehousing, and Permanent Supportive Housing.
- [Shelter Care Ministries Jubilee Center](#); (815) 964-5520 – The Jubilee Center is a free day program for adults who live with chronic mental illness, who may be homeless, or at risk of homelessness. Jubilee staff provide advocacy, case management, intervention, activities, hot meals, and social events. They are invited to attend community functions and are provided with transportation and resources that enrich their lives.
- [Salvation Army](#); (815) 962-7195 – Offers free services such as Aid to Families, Emergency Financial Assistance (utility bills, clothing, medication, bills, and other needs), Food and Nutrition Programs (food pantry and meals at shelters and facilities), Emergency Shelter, and Transitional Housing.
- [Salvation Army Pathway to Hope](#); (815) 972-1135 – A free, comprehensive case management system to help families identify barriers to self-sufficiency (unemployment, insecure housing, lack of job skills, lack of childcare, etc.), provides guidance on how to address these barriers, and connects families with community support organizations.
- [St. Elizabeth Catholic Community Center](#); (815) 965-6993 – Provides a free food pantry and clothing closet as well as job resources through Project HIRE.

Students who are English Learners

- [St. Elizabeth Catholic Community Center](#); (815) 344-6956 – The Bilingual Outreach Program provides free information and social services to Spanish-speaking people, including advocacy for employment, medical care, housing, and other resources.
- [YWCA La Voz Latina](#); (815) 968-9681 – Offers many services that are free to eligible individuals or families, including information and referral services; [One-on-one parenting classes](#) and adult education workshops; Advocacy for at-risk and in-crisis families; [Immigrant Family Resource Program](#), including case management to help follow up after application and appeals, as necessary; [Access to Justice](#) (social services program), including deportation defense and immigrant rights; Assisting families involved or at-risk of involvement with the DCFS system to reunify with their children or other resources; [Healthy Families Home Visiting Program](#) to eliminate at-risk

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factors through home visits, connection to community service agencies, parenting information, referral to early intervention, and developmental screenings.

- [YWCA Literacy Council](#); (815) 968-9681 – Provides free classes through group and individualized tutoring programs to adults seeking to enhance the quality of their lives by improving their English language comprehension, reading, writing, and English as a second language (ESL) skill.

Students who are Military-Connected

- [Rockford VA Clinic](#); (815) 227-0081, Mental Health Care Contact: (608) 256-1901 x17084 – Our outpatient clinic provides primary care and specialty health services, including mental health care, nutrition and dietary care, physical and occupational therapy, podiatry (foot care), social work, and more to eligible veterans.
- [Rockford Vet Center](#); (815) 395-1279 – Providing eligible veterans: Individual and group counseling for Veterans, service members, and their families; Family counseling for military related issues; Bereavement (grief) counseling; Military sexual trauma counseling and referral; Community outreach and education; Substance abuse assessment and referral; Employment referral; and Referral of other VA services.
- Veteran's Assistance Commission – Improving the quality of life for Boone County Veterans and their dependents through accessing all available benefits that were earned by the sacrifice and service to their country. Benefits include education, health, transportation to doctor visits, home buying, financial assistance, benefits for seniors or veterans who are disabled, death benefits or obtaining medical records or awards.
 - [Veteran's Assistance Commission – Boone County](#); (815) 544-6464
 - [Veteran's Assistance Commission – Winnebago County](#); (815) 987-2542
- [Veteran's Crisis Line](#); Dial 988, then press 1, Text: 838255, or chat online. The crisis line offers 24/7 confidential support for Veterans, service members, National Guard and Reserve members, and their family, friends, and supporters. You do not have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to connect.
- [Veterans Drop-In Center](#); Contact: [Facebook](#) – A safe, supportive, and positive social environment where all veterans and their families, with local veterans' service organizations, can give and receive help transitioning into and continuing to adapt to post-service life. Offerings include fun with fellow veterans, computer classes, games, lunch, dinner, haircuts, onsite meetings with VA and Vet Center representatives, direct referrals to area veterans' resources, local musicians and much more!
- [Carpenter's Place](#); (815) 964-4105 – Programs include a day room and meal plan, chapel, case management, support and education groups, employment training, mental health access and housing assistance.
- [The Continuum of Care \(CoC\) – Northern Illinois Homeless Coalition](#) – **Single Point of Contact for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness in the Rockford Area**: contact (844) 710-6919, ext. 5. All homeless persons (on streets or in shelters) and homeless youth, veterans, and survivors of domestic violence access housing services through Chance4Change, a single point of entry for the homeless in our community. They are assessed for permanent housing and a housing plan is developed. Housing assistance programs include Rapid Rehousing for those on the street or in shelters, Homeless Prevention of rent or mortgage assistance to remain housed and Condemnation Relocation with one-month payment at a new location.
- [IL Department of Employment Security – Veteran Services](#); (217) 558-0401 – Assisting veterans in finding family-sustaining and meaningful employment.

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Students who have aged out of Foster Care

- [The Continuum of Care \(CoC\) – Northern Illinois Homeless Coalition](#) – **Single Point of Contact for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness in the Rockford Area:** contact (844) 710-6919, ext. 5. All homeless persons (on streets or in shelters) and homeless youth, veterans, and survivors of domestic violence access housing services through Chance4Change, a single point of entry for the homeless in our community. They are assessed for permanent housing and a housing plan is developed. Housing assistance programs include **Foster Youth Housing Assistance Program**. Youth who have aged out of foster care aged 18-21 who are either homeless or having problems with housing receive support and services to help them become housed, no referral is needed. These same services are available to Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS) involved families with a referral from their caseworker.
- [Foster Progress](#) – Foster Progress empowers Illinois youth currently or formerly in foster care to attain a college degree and transition into adulthood successfully. Offerings include:
 - Mentoring and Scholarships – Get matched with a one-on-one college-educated mentor for support to finish high school strong and walk through the college application and financial aid process. Each time you meet with their mentor, you can earn \$100 in scholarship money to be used for enrolling in a post-secondary program.
 - Traverse – Youth who have graduated high school but are not sure of their next steps can join this gap-year program to discover their strengths and create a plan for their future. They will participate in monthly service projects and travel opportunities.
 - Training and Workshops – Caseworkers, caregivers, and educators can schedule in-person or online training for continuing education and professional development.
 - Advocacy – Removing barriers to youth growing into successful adults - whether in the child welfare system, in colleges' and universities' policies and practices, or in state and federal policies.
- [Winnebago County CASA](#); (815) 319-6880 – A Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) is a trained community member who is appointed by a Juvenile Court judge to represent the best interests of a person up to 19 years of age who has experienced abuse or neglect whose case is brought before the court. Winnebago County CASA empowers volunteer CASAs to speak up for people under the age of 20 who do not have a voice – and to change a child's story. Winnebago County CASA exists to develop and maintain an effective, high quality CASA program to advocate for and represent people under the age of 20 in the juvenile court system who have experienced abuse or neglect.
- [The Workforce Connection – Help for Youth](#); (815) 963-6236 – Assisting Youth & Young Adults. Offers training, including FREE tuition up to \$13,000 for eligible students at 67 programs at Rock Valley College. Transportation and childcare assistance are also available. Offers resources to help individuals obtain employment. Helps connect job seekers to available jobs in Northern Illinois.
 - Services for Young Adults Out-of-School (16-24). Programs emphasize the importance of youth returning to school or obtaining a GED as a basic step on their road to success. Programs provide basic skills, GED instruction, tutoring, counseling, mentoring, career exploration, work experience (WEX) employment opportunities and job placement assistance. The programs also provide follow-up mentoring for at least one year after the youth exit the program.

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- Services for Youth In-School (14-21). Programs help youth become successful in school, enabling them to graduate and continue their education/training and/or gain employment. In addition to tutoring youth in school and counseling/mentoring the youth, all in-school programs provide career awareness and work readiness activities.