



COMMUNITY CONNECT



COURTESY PHOTO

People visit vendors' booths at the Community Connect on Sept. 25, 2025, in this file photo. Clothing, household items, free lunch, free showers, information about community resources and more will be available at the next Community Connect, which will be from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 29 at the Fine Arts Building at Central States Fairgrounds in Rapid City. The event is free.

Free clothes, lunch, household goods and more available to anyone in need

TANYA MANUS
Journal staff

Anyone in need of clothing, shoes, bedding, household items and more is invited to Community Connect in Rapid City.

Community Connect will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 29, at the Fine Arts Building at Central States Fairgrounds. Community Connect events typically are held in the fall to help families prepare for a new school year and cooler weather, and in the spring as the seasons are changing.

People can “shop” for clothing when it’s most needed for changing needs and weather, said Stephanie Kor, executive director of Journey On and co-chair for the Community Connect committee.

“There’s no limit on how much individuals can take. We do that because we’re not there to judge. It’s a judgment-free, low-barrier giveaway, and we do that intentionally. One person might be shopping for two people, and the next person might be shopping for a household of 10, and they have different needs,” Kor said. “We let people take as many bags of items

as they want. There’s always more than enough to go around.”

There are no income guidelines or identification required to come to Community Connect, but organizers do ask individuals for the number of people in their household and what school their children attend. This helps Community Connect organizers track areas of Rapid City where families have the biggest needs, Kor said.

Community Connect includes an array of services. On Sept. 29, The Salvation Army mobile canteen will serve free lunch beginning at 11:30 a.m. Free showers and haircuts will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

The upcoming Community Connect is sponsored by Housing Stability Partners of the Black Hills, Volunteers of America Northern Rockies, Journey On, Foundations for Families of the Black Hills, and Showered With Hope. Julesburg Christian Church in Colorado also supports Community Connect by providing donations, and local businesses contribute supplies such as hangers and clothing racks.

Local agencies and organizations will be at Community Connect to provide information and resources.

“It’s a true community event with community members, community agencies and just all neighbors,” Kor said. “We see all ages, all income levels. It’s across the board. It’s a great way for the community to all come together — people who have stuff to give and people who need stuff, and it’s really kind of a beautiful day, always. Exhausting in the best possible way.”

Volunteers needed

Community Connect events always seek teen and adult volunteers to assist during Community Connect on Sept. 29, and a follow-up event for agencies on Sept. 30.

During the Community Connect event, volunteers might be needed to carry people’s bags or help individuals who have mobility issues. Other tasks include sorting, hanging, organizing and unboxing donations, and tear-down assistance.

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ALEX WONG, GETTY IMAGES

A man carries a flag June 30 in front of the Supreme Court in Washington.

GOP campaign spending surges after court ruling

Republicans blow past former limits removed by Supreme Court

JOHN KRUZEL
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Since the U.S. Supreme Court in June sided with Republicans and struck down federal caps on spending by political parties in coordination with candidates, Republican committees have blown past the former limits as President Donald Trump’s party fights to retain control of Congress in November’s midterm elections.

The Republican committees supporting the party’s candidates in Senate and

House of Representatives races have exceeded the former national caps by more than \$48 million, according to Federal Election Commission spending disclosures for July and August. Their Democratic counterparts also eclipsed the former limits, but by much less — just under \$4 million.

Political analysts said Republican committees seek to use the newly unfettered coordinated spending to help level the playing field in key races in which individual Democratic candidates outtrailed their Republican opponents. Another surge in spending by both parties is expected in the coming weeks in the run-up to the Nov. 3 elections.

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