



## Maximizing Income For Seniors

### WHAT KINDS OF PROGRAMS CAN HELP ME?

There are many different benefit programs available to seniors to assist with maximizing income and reducing medical costs. Some are well-known but others, though less so, may save you a significant amount of money. Below are descriptions of many of the programs.

	Age Limit	Income Limit	Assets Limit	Description
<b>Reduced Subway and Bus Fare</b>	65	No	No	<b>Reduced subway and bus fares.</b> Show your Medicare Card, or contact NYC Department for the Aging, below, about a reduced fare MetroCard.
<b>Elder Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC)</b>	65	Yes	No	Save <b>more than half the cost of prescription drugs.</b>
<b>Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE)</b>	62	Yes	No	<b>Stops rent increases</b> in rent-controlled and rent-stabilized apartments. See separate MFY Fact Sheet "How Can Seniors Stop Rent Increases?"
<b>Senior Citizen Homeowners Exemption (SCHE)</b>	65	Yes	No	<b>Property tax breaks</b> of up to 50% for your residence.
<b>New York State School Tax Relief Program (STAR)</b>	No	No	No	Exemption from the portion of property <b>taxes</b> that pay for schools for your owner-occupied primary residence. <b>Enhanced</b> exemptions are available to seniors with low income.
<b>Real Property Tax Credit</b>	No	Yes	No	Tax credit or cash payment for <b>rent</b> or <b>property taxes</b> for your home if the <b>rent or property value is low.</b>
<b>Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)</b>	No	Yes	No	Contributes toward heat and electric costs.
<b>Weathering Referral and Packaging Program (WRAP)</b>	60	Yes	No	Helps lower your energy bills, insulate your home, and stop drafts.

	Age Limit	Income Limit	Assets Limit	Description
<b>Social Security</b>	62 (65 for full)	No (if over 65)	No (if over 65)	Payments can be based on <b>your work or your spouse's work</b> (even if you were divorced).
<b>Supplemental Security Income (SSI)</b>	Aged or disabled	Yes	Yes	Payments for low income seniors and disabled persons. May supplement Social Security payments.
<b>Veterans' Benefits</b>	No	Bene-fits vary	Yes	Health care, vocational training, education, home loans, disability payments, life insurance, burial, other benefits. <b>Includes families of veterans</b> in some cases.
<b>Public Assistance</b>	No	Yes	Yes	Payments for basic needs. Even if you do not want welfare benefits, you can receive assistance for <b>heat, utilities, and repairs</b> .
<b>Medicare</b>	65	No	No	Apply <b>3 months before your 65<sup>th</sup> birthday</b> . Covers medical care.
<b>Medicaid</b>	Benefits vary	Yes	Yes	Medical care for low-income individuals.
<b>Medicare Savings Program (QMBY, SLMBY, QI-1)</b>	65	Yes	Yes	Three programs that pay <b>Medicare premiums</b> for low-income seniors: Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMBY); Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiaries (SLMBY); Qualified Individual 1 (QI-1).
<b>Food Stamps</b>	No	Yes	Yes	Allowance to purchase food.

### HOW DO I FIND OUT ABOUT THESE BENEFITS?

**The New York City Department for the Aging**  
 2 Lafayette Street, New York, NY 10007, dial 311  
 publishes the *Benefit Guide For Older New Yorkers*,  
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/dfta/html/16benefits.html>