



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
Reduced Subway and Bus Fare	65	No	No	Reduced subway and bus fares. Show your Medicare Card, or contact NYC Department for the Aging, below, about a reduced fare MetroCard.
Elder Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC)	65	Yes	No	Supplements out-of-pocket Medicare Part D drug plan costs and helps pay premiums for low and moderate income seniors.
Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE)	62	Yes	No	Stops rent increases in rent-controlled and rent-stabilized apartments. See separate MFY Fact Sheet "How Can Seniors Stop Rent Increases?"
Senior Citizen Homeowners Exemption (SCHE)	65	Yes	No	Property tax breaks of up to 50% for your residence.
New York State School Tax Relief Program (STAR)	No	No	No	Exemption from the portion of property taxes that pay for schools for your owner-occupied primary residence. Enhanced exemptions are available to seniors with low income.
Real Property Tax Credit	No	Yes	No	Tax credit or cash payment for rent or property taxes for your home if the rent or property value is low.
Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)	No	Yes	No	Grants to help pay heat and electric costs; funds are limited so apply early in the year. HEAP also helps low income home owners repair or replace furnaces, boilers or other heating components.

	Age Limit	Income Limit	Assets Limit	Description
Weathering Referral and Packaging Program (WRAP)	60	Yes	No	Helps lower your energy bills, insulate your home, and stop drafts.
Social Security	62 (full retirement age ranges from 65 to 67 and is based on the year you were born)	No (if over your full retirement age)	No	Payments can be based on your work or your spouse's work (even if you were divorced).
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	Aged or disabled	Yes	Yes	Payments for low income seniors and disabled persons. May supplement Social Security payments.
Veterans' Benefits	No	Benefits vary	Yes	Health care, vocational training, education, home loans, disability payments, life insurance, burial, other benefits. Includes families of veterans in some cases. For information on Veterans' Benefits call 800-827-1000.
Public Assistance	No	Yes	Yes	Payments for basic needs. Even if you do not want welfare benefits, you can receive assistance for heat, utilities, and repairs .
Medicare	65	No	No	Apply 3 months before your 65th birthday . Covers medical care.
Medicaid	Benefits vary	Yes	Yes	Medical care for low-income individuals.
Medicare Savings Program (QMB, SLMB, QI-1)	65	Yes	Yes	Three programs that pay Medicare premiums for low-income seniors: Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMB); Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiaries (SLMB); Qualified Individual 1 (QI-1).
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	No	Yes	Yes	Allowance to purchase food.

HOW DO I FIND OUT ABOUT THESE BENEFITS?

Contact the New York City Department for the Aging at 2 Lafayette Street, New York, NY 10007 or by dialing 311. You can also obtain a copy of the *Benefit Guide For Older New Yorkers* at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dfta/html/benefits/resources.shtml>.

WHO CAN I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

You may call MFY Legal Services, Inc.'s Government Benefits Project at 212-417-3732 on Mondays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

DISCLAIMER: This fact sheet gives general information for NYC residents; it is NOT legal advice.