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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Age Limit</th>
<th>Income Limit</th>
<th>Assets Limit</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reduced Subway and Bus Fare</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Reduced subway and bus fares. Show your Medicare Card, or contact NYC Department for the Aging, below, about a reduced fare MetroCard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elder Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC)</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Supplements out-of-pocket Medicare Part D drug plan costs and helps pay premiums for low and moderate income seniors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE)</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Stops rent increases in rent-controlled and rent-stabilized apartments. See separate Mobilization for Justice Fact Sheet “How Can Seniors Stop Rent Increases?”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Citizen Homeowners Exemption (SCHE)</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Property tax breaks of up to 50% for your residence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York State School Tax Relief Program (STAR)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real Property Tax Credit</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Tax credit or cash payment for rent or property taxes for your home if the rent or property value is low.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weathering Referral and Packaging Program (WRAP)</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Helps lower your energy bills, insulate your home, and stop drafts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Security</td>
<td>62 (full retirement age ranges from 65 to 67 and is based on the year you were born)</td>
<td>No (if over your full retirement age)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Payments can be based on your work or your spouse's work (even if you were divorced).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplemental Security Income (SSI)</td>
<td>Aged or disabled</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Payments for low income seniors and disabled persons. May supplement Social Security payments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans’ Benefits</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Benefits vary</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Assistance</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Payments for basic needs. Even if you do not want welfare benefits, you can receive assistance for heat, utilities, and repairs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicare</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Apply 3 months before your 65th birthday. Covers medical care.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid</td>
<td>Benefits vary</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Medical care for low-income individuals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicare Savings Program (QMB, SLMB, QI-1)</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>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).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Allowance to purchase food.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 Mobilization for Justice, 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.