



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	Save more than half the cost of prescription drugs.
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	Contributes toward heat and electric costs.
Weathering Referral and Packaging Program (WRAP)	60	Yes	No	Helps lower your energy bills, insulate your home, and stop drafts.

	Age Limit	Income Limit	Assets Limit	Description
Social Security	62 (65 for full)	No (if over 65)	No (if over 65)	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	Bene-fits vary	Yes	Health care, vocational training, education, home loans, disability payments, life insurance, burial, other benefits. Includes families of veterans in some cases.
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 (QMBY, SLMBY, QI-1)	65	Yes	Yes	Three programs that pay Medicare premiums for low-income seniors: Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries (QMBY); Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiaries (SLMBY); Qualified Individual 1 (QI-1).
Food Stamps	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>