

# **Attention Cherokee County Residents**

***You or someone you know may  
qualify to receive assistance with:***

- Utility Costs***
- Property Taxes***
- Medicare***

**An Outreach Initiative Sponsored by:**



*Atlanta Regional Commission, Area Agency on Aging*

***[www.agewiseconnection.com](http://www.agewiseconnection.com)***

**November 2011- March 2012**

*Information contained in this document is subject to change.*

*Please call numbers listed for updated information.*

# Cherokee County – Senior Citizen Utility Discount Programs (2012)

General Guidelines Include: • Annual household income restrictions. • Must live at address where utility is provided. (Please check with company)  
• Billing must be in name of qualified person.

LIHEAP Program	Natural Gas	Electric	Phone	Garbage
<p><b>BENEFITS</b></p> <p>The Low Income Home Energy Assistance program helps Georgians with heating bills. Qualifying applicants receive a payment sent to their home energy supplier, for gas, electricity, propane gas, wood coal or kerosene. When funds are available, cooling assistance is offered during the summer months. The benefit amount ranges from \$310 to \$350 depending on one's yearly income level. Family income can not exceed 60% of state median income. For a one-person household, that would be \$21,504; for two person \$28,116; for three person \$34,728; for four people \$41,340; for five people \$47,964; for six people \$54,576; for seven people \$55,812; for eight people \$57,060.</p> <p><b>LIHEAP Program Period</b></p> <p>For Homebound individuals and seniors (age 65+) November 1 – all others December 1 – April 30 or until funds are exhausted.</p> <p>For more information contact: <b>Northwest Georgia Community Action, Inc.</b> 3049 Marietta Highway Suite 120 Canton, GA 30114 770-345-6531</p>	<p><b>BENEFITS</b></p> <p>Discounts on per-therm rates and customer service fee for senior citizens.</p> <p><b>Application Process</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For general senior discounts, contact the gas provider of your choice and ask for the senior rate. A comparison chart is available through the Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC) Web site: <a href="http://www.psc.state.ga.us">www.psc.state.ga.us</a></li> <li>Customers with a total household income of <b>\$14,355</b> or less and are 65 years of age or older qualify for a credit of up to <b>\$14.00</b> to their bill. The bill must be in the name of the senior who applies for the discount. The credit is applied to the Atlanta Gas Light Company base charge portion of the bill. For an application, call your provider or Atlanta Gas Light at (770) 994-1946 or visit the Georgia PSC at Web site above.</li> <li>For questions about natural gas providers senior discount programs contact: <b>Georgia Public Service Commission</b> 244 Washington St., SW Atlanta, GA 30334 404-656-4501</li> </ol>	<p><b>BENEFITS</b></p> <p><b>Georgia Power</b> offers <b>\$20.00</b> off monthly bill.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total household income must be <b>\$14,355 or less.</b></li> <li>Applicant must be 65 years or older with proof of age.</li> <li>Bill must be in applicant's name.</li> </ol> <p><b>Application Process</b></p> <p>Call the telephone number on your electric bill (<b>1-888-660-5890</b>) or visit your nearest Georgia Power office to obtain an application. Mail applications to:</p> <p><b>Georgia Power</b> <b>BIN #10101</b> <b>241 Ralph McGill Blvd</b> <b>Atlanta, GA 30308</b></p> <p><b>Amicalola Electric</b> \$10 Late fee is waved with proof of social security. <i>Application Process</i> Call <b>706-253-5200</b></p> <p><b>Sawnee EMC</b> \$6 discount for persons age 65 and older Income is less than \$15,000 <i>Application Process</i> Call <b>770-887-2363</b></p> <p><b>Cobb Energy</b> offers a 5% discount to individuals age 65+ if bill is paid within 30 days. Senior must have a "fixed" income. <i>Application Process Contact:</i> <b>Cobb Energy at 770-429-2100</b></p>	<p><b>Lifeline</b> is a government program that offers qualified low-income households a discount on their monthly local telephone bill. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.lifelinesupport.org/hi/low-income/lifelinesupport">www.lifelinesupport.org/hi/low-income/lifelinesupport</a>.</p> <p><b>BENEFITS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>\$13.50</b> off monthly bill</li> <li>Connection charge waived prior to connection of service.</li> </ol> <p><b>Application Process</b></p> <p>Must be a recipient of one or more of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Atlanta Gas Light or electric senior citizen discount</li> <li>Medicaid beneficiary</li> <li>SSI recipient</li> <li>Public Housing</li> <li>LIHEAP assistance</li> <li>Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)</li> <li>Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)</li> </ol> <p>Contact or mail to: <b>AT&amp;T</b> <b>4th Floor 304 Pine Ave.</b> <b>Albany, GA 31702</b> <b>1-800-288-2020</b></p> <p><i>*Other telephone companies may offer this discount. Check with your provider.</i></p>	<p><b>BENEFITS</b></p> <p>The City of Canton offers special rates for seniors and persons with disabilities for weekly garbage collection. The application form for this collection rate is available in the water department at city hall. The applicant must be age 62 or older to qualify for the special rate. The monthly service charge for senior garbage is \$7. This special rate provides a monthly savings of \$9 for each qualified person.</p> <p>For more information <b>City of Canton</b> <b>770-704-1520</b></p>

# You May Qualify for the Medicare Savings Program (2012)

Income Guidelines subject to change April, 1 2012

<b>What is the Medicare Savings Program?</b>	A federal program designed to assist individuals pay their Medicare premiums, deductibles, and coinsurance.
<b>Who qualifies?</b>	Individuals with Medicare
<b>How do I qualify?</b>	Qualifications are based on income and assets. See below for guidelines.
<b>Where do I apply?</b>	Call GeorgiaCares at <b>1-866-552-4464 (option 4)</b> or apply at the Cherokee County DFCS <b>770-720-3610</b>

Program Name	Program Will Pay	Income Guidelines* (Monthly)	Asset Guidelines*
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>QMB</b> <b>Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries</b>	<b>Medicare 2012 Part B Premium</b> \$99.90	Individual – \$928 Couple – \$1,246	Individual – \$6,680 Couple – \$10,020
	<b>Medicare 2012 Deductibles &amp; Coinsurance</b> <input type="checkbox"/> \$140 Annual Deductible <input type="checkbox"/> 20% Co- payment		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>SLMB</b> <b>Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary</b>	<b>Medicare 2012 Part B Premium</b> \$99.90	Individual – \$1,109 Couple – \$1,491	Individual – \$6,680 Couple – \$10,020
	<b>Medicare 2012 Part B Premium</b> \$99.90		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>QI-1</b> <b>( Qualifying Individual )</b>		Individual – \$1,246 Couple – \$1,675	Individual – \$6,680 Couple – \$10,020

# You May Qualify for the Low Income Subsidy Program for Medicare Part D

<b>What is the Low Income Subsidy for Medicare Part D?</b>	A federal program designed to assist individuals pay prescription costs
<b>Who qualifies?</b>	Individuals with Medicare
<b>How do I qualify?</b>	Qualifications are based on income and assets. Monthly income must be less than \$1,361 as an individual or \$1,839 as a couple. Assets must also be less than \$13,070 as an individual or \$26,120 as a couple
<b>Where do I apply?</b>	Call GeorgiaCares at <b>1-866-552-4464 (option 4)</b> or Social Security at <b>1-800-772-1213</b>

\* If burial expenses have not been pre-paid, each person can exclude \$10,000 from their assets (designated burial allowances).

# A Tax Break for Cherokee County Homeowners

**Homestead exemptions are filed with the Tax Assessors office in Canton.**

**Real Property Exemptions** - may apply at anytime prior to April 1st of effective year

## **Requirements for all exemptions**

- The applicant must own and reside on the property on or before January 1st of the year the exemption is effective
- Any age, income, and/or disability requirements must be verified
- Deadline - March 1st of effective tax year

## **Homestead Exemption - ES 1**

- Must own and reside on the property on or before January 1st of the effective tax year
- If qualified, you will receive an assessment reduction of \$2,000.00 off the assessed value of state and school and \$5,000 off the assessed value for county.

## **Elderly School Exemption - EL3 ES3 - over 62 / EL4 ES4 - over 65**

- Must have homestead exemption
- must be **62** years of age or older on or before January 1st of the effective tax year
- If qualified, you will be exempt from school taxes only up to \$358,475 fair market value; \$143,390 of assessed value
- Exemption will come only on one (1) dwelling on said property

## **Disability School Tax Exemption - EL6 ES1**

- Must have homestead exemption
- Must be certified by a medical doctor as being 100% disabled on or before January 1st of the effective tax year
- If qualified, you will be exempt from school taxes only up to \$358,475 fair market value; \$143,390 of assessed value

## **Disabled Veteran's Exemption ES5 Disabled Veteran Unmarried Widow Exemption ESS**

- Must be certified by the Veteran Administration and/or a medical doctor as having a 100% service connected disability on or before January 1st of the effective tax year
- If qualified, you will be exempt \$50,000.00 off the assessed value--applies to both county and school M&O. NOTE: if certified by the VA and/or a medical doctor, proof of an honorable discharge must be submitted
- If receiving a check from the VA, talk with their office for a letter of recommendation
- Widow must not be re-married.

## **Increase Exemption**

- May not have regular or double homestead exemption
- Must be 62 years of age or older on or before January 1st of the effective tax year
- Total household income from all sources for the previous tax year cannot have exceeded \$30,000.00
- Exemption only applies to assessment increases on residence and up to 5 acres that the residence stands upon
- Does not include any county bond, school and municipal taxation

## **City of Canton Homestead Exemption: 770-704-1500**

The City of Canton offers a homestead exemption for seniors age 62 or older who own and reside in the home where taxes are assessed. To qualify for the senior exemption the owner must have reached age 62 by December 31st in the year that they apply and must apply for the exemption on or before March 1st in the year of the tax levy. The application for the senior homestead exemption is available in the tax department at city hall. The exemption is \$112,000 toward the assessed value of the home. Seniors who own homes that are assessed at a value greater than \$112,000 (\$280,000 Fair Market Value) will be responsible for property taxes on that portion in excess of \$112,000.

### **For Additional Information contact:**

Cherokee County Tax Assessor Office • 2782 Marietta Highway Suite 200 • Canton, GA 30114  
678.493.6120 • M-F 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

***Other local tax exemptions may be offered by your local city.  
Contact your local city government for more information.***