

Attention Clayton 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

November 2011- March 2012

Information contained in this document is subject to change.

Please call numbers listed for updated information.

Clayton 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	Water
<p>BENEFITS</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>LIHEAP Program Period</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: Clayton County Community Services Authority 1000 Main Street Forest Park, GA 30298 404-363-0575</p>	<p>BENEFITS</p> <p>Discounts on per-therm rates and customer service fee for senior citizens.</p> <p>Application Process</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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: www.psc.state.ga.us Customers with a total household income of \$14,355 or less and are 65 years of age or older qualify for a credit of up to \$14.00 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. For questions about natural gas providers senior discount programs contact: Georgia Public Service Commission 244 Washington St., SW Atlanta, GA 30334 404-656-4501 	<p>BENEFITS</p> <p>Georgia Power offers \$20.00 off monthly bill.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Total household income must be \$21,660 or less. Applicant must be 65 years or older with proof of age. Bill must be in applicant's name. <p>Application Process</p> <p>Call the telephone number on your electric bill (1-888-660-5890) or visit your nearest Georgia Power office to obtain an application. Mail applications to: Georgia Power BIN #10101 241 Ralph McGill Blvd, Atlanta, GA 30308</p> <p>Central Georgia EMC offers a special billing cycle of approximately the first of the month for customers 62 years + on a fixed retirement or disability income. Those under 62 may qualify if the disability income is the primary income.</p> <p>Contact: Central Georgia EMC 770-775-7857</p> <p>Coweta Fayette EMC offers \$6 off monthly service charge to those 65+ with total household income of \$15,000 or less. First of month payment option for seniors receiving Social Security checks. Contact: Coweta Fayette EMC 770-502-0226</p>	<p>Lifeline is a government program that offers qualified low-income households a discount on their monthly local telephone bill.</p> <p>For more information, visit www.lifelinesupport.org/li/low-income/lifelinesupport/browser/</p> <p>BENEFITS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> \$13.50 off monthly bill Connection charge waived prior to connection of service. <p>Application Process</p> <p>Must be a recipient of one or more of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Atlanta Gas Light or electric senior citizen discount Medicaid beneficiary SSI recipient Public Housing LIHEAP assistance Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) <p>Contact: AT&T 4th Floor 304 Pine Ave. Albany, GA 31702 1-800-288-2020</p> <p><i>*Other telephone companies may offer this discount. Check with your provider.</i></p>	<p>BENEFITS</p> <p>Clayton County Water System</p> <p>Special billing cycle to allow customers to receive the bill to coincide with receipt of pension/social security checks. All due dates and cut-off dates will be determined by the special billing date.</p> <p>Application Process</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Must be 62+ Complete application for senior program Return application in person with photo ID and proof of age <p>Contact: Clayton County Water Authority 770-961-2130</p>

You May Qualify for the Medicare Savings Program (2012)

Income Guidelines subject to change April 1, 2012

What is the Medicare Savings Program?	A federal program designed to assist individuals pay their Medicare premiums, deductibles, and coinsurance.
Who qualifies?	Individuals with Medicare
How do I qualify?	Qualifications are based on income and assets. See below for guidelines.
Where do I apply?	Call GeorgiaCares at 1-866-552-4464 (option 4) or apply at the Clayton County DFCS 770-473-2351

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

What is the Low Income Subsidy for Medicare Part D?	A federal program designed to assist individuals pay prescription costs
Who qualifies?	Individuals with Medicare
How do I qualify?	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
Where do I apply?	Call GeorgiaCares at 1-866-552-4464 (option 4) or Social Security at 1-800-772-1213

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

A Tax Break for Clayton County Homeowners

Clayton County Administration, Annex 3
2nd Floor • 121 South McDonough Street • Jonesboro, GA 30236
770-477-3311

Exemptions Information: Certain homeowners are eligible for various types of homestead exemptions. Homeowners must apply in person for the exemptions by April 1st for current year exemptions. Homeowner must have owned, occupied and claimed Georgia as their legal state of residence on January 1st of the calendar year in order to apply. Once qualified, exemption will remain as long as homeowner occupies that same house or there are no name changes.

Any tax returns with name changes, value disputes, additions or deletions must be filed between January 2 and April 1. New property returns should be made in person with recorded copy of Warranty Deed and settlement statement. Address changes should also be made during this period. A VALID Georgia Drivers License with correct home address is required.

REGULAR HOMESTEAD - \$10,000

May have this or double exemption. Does not apply to debt retirement on bonds.

DOUBLE HOMESTEAD - \$14,000

- A. Must be 65 on January 1st of the year filing – MUST BRING PROOF OF AGE
- B. Taxable income cannot exceed \$10,000 – (Does apply to County and School Bonds.) Must bring proof of income.

FLOATING HOMESTEAD

- A. Must be 62 on January 1st of the year filing
- B. Federal adjusted gross income for the household must be less than \$30,000. Must bring proof of income.
- C. Commissioner's Office would determine base year, which would be previous year's value, and amount of floating exemption is the difference in "base year" and "current year" valuation. Base year value changes with additions or deletions to property. (Does not apply to debt retirement on County or School Bonds.)

SCHOOL EXEMPTIONS - \$10,000

- A. Must be 62 on January 1st of the year filing
- B. Total gross income for all persons residing in the home for preceding year cannot exceed \$10,000.
- C. Must bring proof of income (Applies to School Bonds Only)

TOTAL SCHOOL EXEMPTION

- A. By Age:
 - a. Must be 65 on January 1st of the year filing - MUST BRING PROOF OF AGE
 - b. Can only get exemption on house and five (5) acres*
- B. By Disability (NO AGE REQUIREMENT)
 - a. MUST be 100% disabled from work and have original letters from two (2) doctors licensed in the State of Georgia stating 100% disability
 - b. Can only get exemption on house and five (5) acres*
 - c. Total gross income from all sources for all persons residing in the home for preceding year cannot exceed \$30,000.
 - d. Must bring Tax Return and proof of any other income to office

* On total school exemption, as well as the floating homestead exemption, if you have more than five (5) acres and your home and five (5) acres can be "cut out" and, you would receive two (2) tax bills. On bill with home and five (5) acres, you would get total school exemption and on bill with balance of acreage no exemption(s).

STATE TAX EXEMPTION

Must be 65 on January 1st- 100% exemption on house and ten (10) acres (O.C.G.A. 48-5-56)

VETERANS EXEMPTION - \$50,000

Five ways to be eligible:

1. Letter from VA stating the wartime veteran was:
 - a. discharged under honorable conditions
 - b. adjudicated as being totally and permanently 100% disabled
 - c. receiving or entitled to receive benefit for a 100% service connected disability
2. Letter from VA stating the American wartime veteran was:
 - a. Disabled due to loss or loss of use of both extremities such as to preclude locomotion, without the aid of braces, crutches, canes or wheelchair.
 - b. Blindness in both eyes having only light perception, together with the loss of or loss of use of one lower extremity
 - c. Loss of or loss of use of one lower extremity together with residuals of organic disease or injury which so effect the functions of balance or propulsion as to preclude locomotion without resorting to a wheelchair.
3. Any wartime veteran not so adjudicated by the VA, but having the afflictions as in A, B or C or # 2 and complying with the following:
 - a. Must have DD Form 214 military discharge record
 - b. Letter from Georgia doctor verifying the disability as outlined in # 2 above
 - c. And one additional doctor's statement verifying disability as outlined in # 2 above
4. Any American wartime veteran disabled due to loss or loss of use of one lower extremity together with the loss or loss of use of one upper extremity which so affects the functions of balance or propulsion as to preclude locomotion with the aid of braces, crutches, canes or wheelchair complying with the following:
 - a. Letter from Georgia doctor verifying the qualifying disability
 - b. One additional doctor's statement
5. A veteran becoming eligible for assistance in acquiring housing under Section 801 of the United States Code as hereafter amended on or after January 1, 1985, bringing a letter from the Department of VA stating the eligibility for such housing assistance.

All of the above Veteran Exemptions shall be extended to the unremarried spouse or minor children at the time of the veteran's death so long as they continue to occupy the home as a residence and homestead.

In the event a disabled veteran, who would otherwise be entitled to the exemption, dies or becomes incapacitated to the extent that he or she cannot personally file for such exemption, the spouse, the unremarried surviving spouse or the minor children at the time of the disabled veteran's death, may file for the exemption and such exemption may be granted as if the disabled veteran had made personal application.

UNMARRIED SURVIVING SPOUSE

Veterans Exemption - \$50,000

Citizen, resident of Georgia, spouse of a member of the armed forces of the U.S. which member has been killed in any war or armed conflict in which the armed forces of the U.S. were engaged.

Widowed, unremarried spouse of peace officers and firefighters killed in the line of duty may be exempt from all ad valorem property taxes. (770) 477-3311

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