

Attention Cobb 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.

Cobb 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	Cobb 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. For more information contact: Tallatoona Human Resource Development 995 Roswell St., Suite 311 Marietta, GA 30060 770.422.4926</p>	<p>BENEFITS</p> <p>Discounts on per-therm rates and customer service fee for senior citizens.</p> <p>Application Process</p> <p>1. 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</p> <p>2. 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.</p> <p>3. 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>	<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>Cobb Energy 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> Cobb Energy at 770-429-2100</p> <p>Marietta Power offers a 10% discount to individuals age 65+ with a yearly household income of \$15,000 or less. <i>Application Process Contact:</i> Marietta Power at 770-794-5150</p> <p>Acworth Power does not apply late fees to individuals age 65+ <i>Application Process Contact:</i> Acworth Power at 770-917-8903</p>	<p>Lifeline is a government program that offers qualified low-income households a discount on their monthly local telephone bill. For more information, visit www.lifelinesupport.org/li/low-income/lifelinesupport.</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 or mail to: 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>Cobb County Water System</p> <p>\$7.00 per month base discount for water</p> <p>Application Process</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Total household incomes must be \$14,000 or less Applicant must be 65 years or older with proof of age Signature on the application must be notarized. <p>Contact 770-423-1000 for application.</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 Cobb County DFCS 770-528-5000		
	Program Name	Program Will Pay	Income Guidelines* (Monthly)
<input type="checkbox"/> QMB Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries	Medicare 2012 Part B Premium \$99.90	Medicare 2012 Deductibles & Coinsurance <input type="checkbox"/> \$140 Annual Deductible <input type="checkbox"/> 20% Co- payment	Individual – \$928 Couple – \$1,246
	Medicare 2012 Part B Premium \$99.90		Individual – \$1,109 Couple – \$1,491
<input type="checkbox"/> SLMB Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary	Medicare 2012 Part B Premium \$99.90	Medicare 2012 Part B Premium \$99.90	Individual – \$6,680 Couple – \$10,020
	Medicare 2012 Part B Premium \$99.90		Individual – \$6,680 Couple – \$10,020
<input type="checkbox"/> QI-1 (Qualifying Individual)			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 Cobb County Homeowners

Homestead Exemption is a tax savings on homestead property available to eligible homeowners'. In Cobb County, the Tax Commissioner's office processes all Homestead Exemption applications. Homeowners must own, occupy and claim the property as their legal residence on January 1 to be eligible for any Homestead Exemption for that tax year. Homeowners must apply for each exemption for which they are eligible. The applicant's name must appear on the deed to this property in order to qualify. Rental property does not qualify.

Legal evidence of residency and U. S. citizenship such as a copy of a Georgia Driver's License or Georgia ID Card, etc. must be provided. A non-citizen must provide legal authorization from the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service, such as Alien or I94 number.

A current registration or receipt of motor vehicle taxes paid in Cobb County must be provided for all personal vehicles owned at the time of application. The applicant may claim exemptions on only one property. A husband and wife constitute one "applicant" and may claim only one exemption. Exemptions are automatically renewed and the applicant need not reapply if the home has been refinanced. The Tax Commissioner's office must be notified in the event the applicant no longer qualifies for an exemption. Homeowners will be billed for any unqualified exemption received.

Exemption applications are accepted year round, however the original application (faxed copy not accepted) must be received or U. S. postmarked (a metered postmark is not accepted as proof of timely mailing) by April 1, 2011 to affect the 2011 taxes. Applications not received by the deadline (constitute a waiver of the exemption for that year and) will be processed for the following year.

Tax bills are mailed by August 15 and must be paid or U. S. postmarked (a metered postmark is not accepted as proof of timely mailing) by October 15 to avoid late fees. Detailed information and forms are available on our web site at www.cobbtax.org.

Exemption Types

BASIC HOMESTEAD – tax savings of up to \$266.70, depending on your tax district and other exemptions.

SCHOOL TAX – exempt from all County school taxes; must be 62 or older on Jan. 1; proof of age required.

DISABILITY (\$12,000 income limitation) - must be totally and permanently disabled on Jan. 1; doctor's certification required.

STATE VETERAN'S DISABILITY - for disabled veterans as defined in OCGA 48-5-48; extends to un-remarried spouse or minor occupying homestead.

SURVIVING SPOUSE - for un-remarried surviving spouse of a member of U.S. Armed Forces who was killed or died as a result of war or armed conflict.

STATE OVER 65 (\$10,000 income limitation) - \$4,000 exemption in State tax category; must be 65 or older on Jan. 1; proof of age required.

STATE OVER 65 (No income requirement) - exempt from all State ad valorem taxes up to 10 contiguous acres immediately surrounding the residence; must be 65 or older on Jan. 1; proof of age required.

SURVIVING SPOUSE OF A PEACE OFFICER OR FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY - Exemption from full value of homestead for un-remarried surviving spouse of a peace officer or firefighter killed in the line of duty; supporting documentation required.

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