

Attention DeKalb 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.

DeKalb 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 |
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| <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 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: Partnership for Community Action 3597 Covington Highway Decatur, GA 30032 404-537-4300</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:</p> <p>Georgia Power BIN #10101 241 Ralph McGill Blvd, Atlanta, GA 30308</p> <p>Snapping Shoals EMC P.O. Box 509, Covington, GA 30015 770-786-3484 customerservice@ssemc.com</p> <p>Qualifying members will be eligible for the waiver of \$7.50 of the monthly service charge and minimum monthly charge. To qualify, the member must be 65 years of age or older with total household income of \$20,000 or less per year, and address where utility is provided must be primary residence.</p> <p>Walton EMC P.O. Box 260, 842 U.S. Hwy. 78, NW Monroe, GA 30655 770-267-2505 • info@waltonemc.com</p> <p>Qualifying members will be eligible for a \$4 discount on the monthly service charge. You must be at least 65 with a total household income of \$15,000 or less per year and address where utility is provided must be primary residence.</p> | <p>BENEFITS</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</p> <p>Telephone: 1-800-288-2020</p> <p>*Other telephone companies may offer this discount. Check with your provider.</p> | <p>BENEFITS</p> <p>City of Atlanta Department of Watershed Management</p> <p>Senior Citizens are eligible for a 30% discount on water and sewer bills. Eligibility requirements (must be able to provide verification of age, income, and residence):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age 65 years or older. Have a maximum household income of \$25,000 or less. Be the primary titleholder or leaseholder on the property subject to the bill. Must be a City of Atlanta water and sewer customer. <p>To obtain a Low Income Senior Citizen Discount application via mail, contact the Department of Watershed Management Customer Service Division at 404-658-6500. Applications are also available at Fulton County Senior Citizen Facilities, Atlanta libraries, City of Atlanta recreation facilities and the Customer Service Office at 55 Trinity Avenue, 1st Floor, City Hall.</p> |

You May Qualify for the Medicare Savings Program (2012)

Income Guidelines subject to change April, 1 2012

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| 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 DeKalb County DFCS 404-370-5000 | | |
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| | Program Name | Program Will Pay | Income Guidelines* (Monthly) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> QMB Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries | | Medicare 2012 Part B Premium \$99.90 | Individual – \$928 Couple – \$1,246 |
| | | 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 |
| <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 |
| | | | Individual – \$6,680 Couple – \$10,020 |

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

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| 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 DeKalb County Homeowners

Homestead exemptions provide a significant reduction in annual property taxes and are available to individuals who own and reside in a home in DeKalb County. The property must be the legal residence for all purposes (including filing of Federal and State income taxes, registering any owned or leased vehicles, registering to vote, etc.) on January 1 of each year to qualify for or retain an exemption. Beginning year 2007 House Bill 595 allows taxpayers to apply for a freeze on the county operations assessments. This can be accomplished through the normal application process. However, if you have an exemption currently, you must apply separately for the freeze. The statutory deadline for the freeze is 5 years after the legislation is approved by voters. This means the freeze will terminate in 2012 no matter when the original filing for exemption occurred. Only private residences are eligible for homestead exemption – rental property, vacant land and commercial entities are not entitled to homestead exemption. Owners of multiple properties are allowed only one homestead exemption – at their primary residence.

Applications can be filed year round and until March 1 of the year in which the exemption is sought. You may request a homestead exemption application via e-mail by proptax@co.dekalb.ga.us or you may also apply on-line at www.co.dekalb.ga.us/taxcommissioner.

Applicant(s) for senior or disability exemptions must apply in person and present copies of the previous year's Federal and State income tax returns, any Social Security Form 1099s, proof of age and/or proof of 100% total and permanent disability.

Tax Commissioner Office Locations

Main Office – 4380 Memorial Drive, Decatur, GA 30032

South Satellite Office – 2389 Wesley Chapel Road, Suite 101A, Decatur, GA 30035

North Satellite Office – 1358 Dresden Drive, NE, Atlanta, GA 30319

Once an exemption has been granted, it remains in place as long as the applicant continues to reside on the property or until a different exemption is applied for and received. Homestead exemptions are not transferable when an applicant moves to another residence; they must reapply at the new home.

H1 – Basic Homestead Exemption - DeKalb homeowners receive an assessment exemption of \$12,500 for School and \$10,000 for County levies (except bonds) and \$2,000 for State tax. All homeowners are eligible if they own and occupy the home on January 1 of the year of their application. In 2007 a freeze on the county assessment levies is available through 2011. There are no age or income requirements.

H3 – Senior or Disability Exemption – Homeowners who have reached the age of 62 as of January 1 OR are 100% totally and permanently disabled may be eligible. There is a household income limit of \$10,000 (Georgia Net Income). Social Security benefits and most retirement income up to \$55,752 is excluded when calculating income. Exempts the recipient(s) from all School taxes, and maintains the exemption of \$10,000 for County levies (except bonds) and \$2,000 for State tax. It grants the freeze for the county assessments through 2011.

H7 – Senior or Disability Exemption – Homeowners who have reached the age of 62 as of January 1 OR are 100% totally and permanently disabled may be eligible. There is a household income limit of \$16,000 (Gross Income). Reduces taxable value of property by \$22,500 for School taxes, by \$10,000 for County levies (except bonds) and by \$2,000 for State tax. It grants the county assessment freeze through 2011.

H4 – Senior Exemption – Homeowners who have reached the age of 65 as of January 1 may be eligible. There is a household income limit of \$10,000 (Georgia Net Income). Social Security benefits and most retirement income up to \$52.40 may be excluded when calculating income. Exempts the recipient(s) from all School and State taxes, and increases the exemption to \$14,000 for all County levies and grants the county assessment freeze through 2011.

H6 – Senior or Disability Exemption – Homeowners who have reached the age of 65 as of January 1 OR are 100% totally and permanently disabled may be eligible. There is a household income limit of \$15,000 (Georgia Net Income). Social Security benefits and most retirement income up to \$55,752 may be excluded when calculating income in certain instances. Increases the exemption to \$16,500 for School and \$14,000 for County levies and exempts all State tax. It also grants the county assessment freeze through 2011.

H8 – Senior Exemption – Homeowners who have reached the age of 65 as of January 1 may be eligible. There is a household income limit of \$16,000 (Gross Income). Increases the exemption to \$22,500 for School taxes, \$14,000 for all County levies and exempts all State tax. It also grants the county assessment freeze through 2011.

H9 – Senior Exemption – Homeowners who have reached the age of 70 as of January 1 may be eligible. There is a household income limit of \$73,100 (Federal Adjusted Gross PLUS Municipal Bonds). Exempts the applicant(s) from all School and State taxes, and maintains the exemption of \$10,000 for County levies (except bonds). It also grants the county assessment freeze until 2011.

H5 – Disabled Veterans Exemption – There are no age or financial requirements for this exemption. Provides exemption of \$52,500 for school and \$50,000 for all other levies. Applicant must be an Honorably Discharged Veteran with either a service connected or non-service connected disability and must meet one of the following requirements:

1 – presentation of a Letter of Adjudication from the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs stating that the veteran is entitled to 100% service-connected disability;

OR

2 – presentation of the veteran’s Honorable Discharge (DD214) and a doctor’s letter of certification attesting that the veteran has one or more of the following conditions:

- A – Loss or loss of use of both lower extremities, precluding locomotion without the use of braces, crutches, canes or a wheelchair;
- B – Blindness in both eyes, having only light perception, PLUS loss or loss of use of one extremity, which so affects the function of balance or propulsion so as to preclude locomotion without resorting to a wheelchair;
- C – Loss or loss of use of one lower extremity TOGETHER WITH residuals of organic disease or injury which so affects the function of balance or propulsion so as to preclude locomotion without resorting to a wheelchair;
- D – Loss or loss of use of one lower extremity TOGETHER WITH loss or loss of use of one upper extremity which so affects the function of balance or propulsion so as to preclude locomotion without the use of braces, crutches, canes or a wheelchair.

NOTE: This exemption may be transferred to, or applied for by, the unremarried widow or widower of a disabled veteran. This exemption is also extended to the unremarried surviving spouse of a US service member killed in action. I grants the freeze for the county assessments.

H10 – Disabled Veterans Exemption – Disabled veterans who have reached the age of 65 as of January 1 AND meet the requirements for the H5 disabled veterans exemption (above) may be eligible. There is a household income limit of \$10,000 (Georgia Net Income). Exempts the applicant from all School and State taxes, and provides exemption of \$50,000 for all levies. Social Security benefits, railroad retirement and disability benefits are excluded when calculating income. It also grants the County assessment freeze until 2011.

Exemption for unremarried spouse of Peace Officers and Firefighters killed in the line of duty – Provides an exemption for the unremarried surviving spouse of a peace officer or firefighter who was killed in the line of duty for all ad valorem property taxes. This will not affect any special assessments assigned to the property (sanitation, stormwater or streetlights, etc.). This exemption would have to be applied for in person.

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