

Attention Fayette 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.

Fayette 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
<p>BENEFITS 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: Clayton County Community Services Authority 1000 Main Street Forest Park, GA 30298 404-363-0575</p>	<p>BENEFITS Discounts on per-therm rates and customer service fee for senior citizens.</p> <p>Application Process 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 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 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>EMC Coweta – Fayette Fayette District - Branch Office 103 Summer Road • Fayetteville, GA 30214 770-254-0379 • emcservice@utility.org</p> <p>Senior Citizen Discount: Qualifying members certified by the Cooperative will be eligible for a \$6.50 waiver off the monthly service charge. To qualify, you must be 65 years of age or older with a total household income of \$15,000 or less per year. The electric service account must be at your principal place of residence, individually metered, and in your name. Proof of income will be required.</p> <p>Senior Billing Cycle: A special billing option for senior members that extends payment due date to the first of the month to make allowances for the timing of Social Security checks.</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 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>*Other telephone companies may offer this discount. Check with your provider.</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 Fayette County DFCS 770-460-2555

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 Fayette County Homeowners

Basic Homestead is an exemption you may claim against the taxable value of your home as long as you own and occupy that home as your primary residence by December 31 of the year preceding the January 1 when the exemption is being claimed. (The deed must be recorded in the Clerk of Superior Court's Office by December 31 for you to be able to apply.)

Applications for all exemptions may be made year round, but must be made prior to March 1st to be effective in the calendar year in which the application is made. It is important to file for your exemptions as early as possible. New owners must bring a copy of your recorded warranty deed when claiming all homestead exemptions. A taxpayer need only apply once for regular homestead, as the exemption carries over from year to year as long as no changes are made in ownership or residency.

Additional Exemptions:

Disabled Veteran or Widow(er)

If you are a 100% disabled veteran (service related disability) you may qualify for a Disabled Veteran Exemption which will provide additional savings in your property tax bill. This is a \$50,000 exemption off the 40% assessed value of your home. The unremarried widow(er) who is actually continuously occupying the residence may continue to receive this same exemption.

Disabled - Non-Veteran

If you are 100% disabled and meet certain income requirements then you may qualify for the Disabled - Non-Veteran Exemption which will provide additional reductions in your property tax bill. You must provide Georgia Income Tax Records to qualify.

65 Years of Age or Older

If you were 65 years of age or older by January 1st and the Georgia Taxable Income (Line 15 of your Georgia Tax Return) of both husband and wife (joint return) does not exceed \$15,000 on your previous year's tax return, you may be entitled to a 100% school exemption with Fayette County. Proof of age and tax returns are needed to apply for this exemption. Qualifying for this exemption would relieve your tax bill of all school and school bond taxes.

If you were 65 years of age or older by January 1st but did not meet the income qualifications for the above exemption, you would still be entitled to 50% off the school and school bond taxes.

62 Years of Age or Older

If you are 62 years of age by **January 1st**, you can qualify for the exemption that would raise your school exemption from \$2,000 to \$4,000. Proof of age (drivers license) is all that is required to qualify.

The new exemption for age 62 years of age by **January 1st**, raises the school exemption from \$4,000 to \$10,000 if your net income is less than \$10,000. To qualify for this exemption you need to bring in proof of age (drivers license) and the Federal Tax Return for your household.

Because **documentation** is required, applications must be made in person at the **Tax Commissioner's Office** any time during the year but must be made by March 1st of the year to apply for that year's tax bill.

Tax Commissioner's Office Location:

140 W. Stonewall Avenue, Suite 110
Fayetteville, Georgia 30214
770-461-3652

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