

Attention Henry 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 1010 – March 2011

Information contained in this document is subject to change. Please call numbers listed for updated information.

Henry 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</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:</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>Senior Citizen-Low Income Assistance</p> <p>Qualifying members certified by the Cooperative 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, provided that the electric service account is the member's principal place of residence and is individually metered and in said member's name.</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: AT&T 4th Floor 304 Pine Ave. Albany, GA 31702</p> <p>1-800-288-2020</p> <p><i>*Other telephone companies may offer this discount. Check with your provider.</i></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 Henry County DFCS 770-954-2014

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 Henry County Homeowners

You may file for homestead exemption year round but it must be done by April 1 to receive the exemption in that year. To qualify for regular homestead, you must own and occupy the property on January 1, claim Georgia as your legal residence and the property must be in the name of the applicant. Military Personnel must claim Georgia as their state of legal residence to qualify.

Henry County offers the following homestead exemptions:

- 1. Basic Homestead (Code L1)** – You must own and live in your home January 1 of the current year. The exemption for county taxes is \$15,000 and \$4,000 for school and state.
- 2. School Tax (Code L2)** - If you are 62 on January 1, you will qualify for extra exemptions toward your school tax - \$16,000 more, giving a total school exemption of \$20,000. You must come in and apply for the school exemption by March 1st.
- 3. School Tax (Code L3--age 65)** (must be 65 on January 1) the exemption will go to \$80,000 (if your property is valued less than \$200,000 you would not pay school tax); at age 68 (Code L6) (must be 68 on Jan. 1) the exemption would go to \$120,000 (if your property is valued less than \$300,000 you would not pay school tax); at age 70, (Code L9) (must be 70 Jan. 1) no matter the value of your property, you would be totally exempt from paying school tax. (These exemptions will be automatically given to you once we have your birthday in the system.)
- 4. Totally Disabled (Code L12)** under age 65 – You must be 100% disabled, documented by two doctors' letters or one doctor's letter and Social Security award letter. The exemption is \$50,000 off school tax and \$15,000 off county. Once you turn 65, you will benefit more with the age exemption and the exemption will automatically be given to you.
- 5. Disabled Veteran (Code L16)** - You must be 100% service connected adjudicated by the Veterans Administration. You must provide a letter from the Veterans Administration. Once you reach the age of 65, you will benefit more with the age exemption and the exemption will automatically be given to you. (Surviving spouse will continue to receive benefits as long as they do not remarry.)
- 6. Surviving Spouse Armed Conflict (Code SS)** – The surviving spouse will get an exemption of \$50,000 if they were receiving an exemption to begin with.
- 7. Surviving Spouse (Code SG)** – The surviving spouse of a firefighter or police officer killed in the line of duty will get 100% exemption from all taxes as long as the do not remarry.

You may fill out a Homestead Exemption form online at www.co.henry.ga.us/TaxCommissioner/TaxCommHomesteadForm.htm and then print it. You can then either mail it or you may bring it into the McDonough or Stockbridge office. Mailing address: P.O. Box 488, McDonough, GA 30253

If you mail it in, you will be sent you a receipt within 10 business days confirming that your application was received. If you do not receive a confirmation, please contact the Tax Commissioner's office.

Tax Commissioner's Office Locations:

McDonough Office

140 Henry Parkway
McDonough, GA 30253
770-288-8180

Stockbridge Office

164 Burke Street
Stockbridge, GA 30281
770-288-8180

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