

Attention Rockdale 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.

Rockdale 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:</p> <p>Partnership for Community Action 1261 Commercial Drive Conyers, GA 30094 770-922-3431</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:</p> <p>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"> 1. Total household income must be \$21,660 or less. 2. Applicant must be 65 years or older with proof of age. 3. 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: 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>Walton EMC P.O. Box 260, 842 U.S. Hwy. 78, NW Monroe, GA 30655 (770) 267-2505 • info@waltonemc.com</p> <p>Senior Citizen-Low Income Assistance: Qualifying members certified by WEMC will be eligible for a \$4 discount on the monthly service charge. You must be at least 65 years old with a total household income of \$15,000 or less per year. The account must serve the member's principal residence, be individually metered and in the applying 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"> 1. \$13.50 off monthly bill 2. 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"> 1. Atlanta Gas Light or electric senior citizen discount 2. Medicaid beneficiary 3. SSI recipient 4. Public Housing 5. LIHEAP assistance 6. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) 7. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) <p>Contact: AT&T</p> <p>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 Rockdale County DFCS 770-388-5025		
	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
			Asset Guidelines* 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 Rockdale County Homeowners

Homestead Exemptions are value exemptions that are subtracted from your personal residence's assessed value. The exemption lowers your property tax bill. To qualify for a homestead exemption, you must own and occupy your personal residence as of January 1 and be a **U. S. Citizen or legal alien**. By state law, your homestead becomes your legal residence for all purposes in the State of Georgia. You may qualify for only one homestead exemption in the state. Your homestead determines where you register your vehicles and vote. You must apply for the exemption in person at the **Board of Assessor's office** before **April 1st of the current year**. Otherwise, you may apply for the subsequent year. You only need to apply once for the exemption. However, if your situation changes and you qualify for a different exemption, you will need to come back and apply for the new exemption. In Rockdale County, there are a combination of state and local exemptions. Each has a different set of qualifying requirements.

First is the regular homestead. This homestead gives a \$2,000 exemption off the state assessment; a \$15,000 exemption off the county operations assessment; and \$15,000 off your school operations assessment.

If you are between the ages of 62 and 65 years old and your total household NET income from all sources is less than \$10,000, you may also receive a \$10,000 exemption off the school bond assessment. Or, if you are 65 years old and the total NET income of you and your spouse is less than \$10,000, you may qualify for a 100% exemption off your state assessment and a \$4,000 exemption off your county bond assessment. Social Security benefits and certain retirement benefits up to a maximum of \$55,742 are excluded from the NET income total. All age-based exemptions are determined by the age you are on January 1.

If you are a disabled veteran or an unremarried surviving spouse of a veteran killed in action and meet certain requirements found in the law, you may qualify for a \$50,000 exemption that is deducted from the state, county operations and bonds, as well as from school operations and bond assessments.

There is a final set of homestead exemptions called the Floating or Variable Homestead Exemptions which are similar to those mentioned above in which you must be 62 years old or older to qualify. However, in addition to meeting all of those age and income requirements, your Adjusted Gross Income cannot exceed \$30,000. If you meet all of these requirements, you may give up your state and county exemptions and change them to a variable exemption. Your new exemption will become the difference between your existing home value and any subsequent revaluations. Value increases due to home improvements or additions do not qualify for the exemption, only value increases due to general price increases in the housing market qualify. Since, however, this exemption replaces any other state or county exemption already in place for the property, taxpayers should be very careful in making application for this exemption since in many cases your tax bill will actually increase until there has been a substantial rise in your home's value.

In addition to the above mentioned homestead exemptions, Rockdale County has a Home Owner Sales Tax Exemption that effectively reduces the County operations portion of your bill to \$0. This exemption applies to your primary residence and a maximum of 5 acres. This exemption is commonly referred to as the "HOST EXEMPTION". Effective January 1, 2007, the State portion of your tax bill for those 65 and older increased to a 100% exemption for your primary residence and a maximum of 10 acres and unremarried surviving spouses of disabled veterans or veterans, firefighters and peace officers who died in the line of duty all have new exemptions that reduce or eliminate their property taxes.

Tax Commissioners Office Location: 969 Pine Street • Conyers, Georgia 30012 • 770-278-7600

Mailing Address: Post Office Box 1497 • Conyers, Georgia 30012

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