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 **2008**

DeKalb County – Senior Citizen Utility Discount Programs (2008)

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.

Electric Natural Gas **LIHEAP Program** The Low Income Heat

Discounts on per therm rates and customer service fee for senior citizens. Assistance Program helps Georgians with heating

Application Process

bills. Qualifying applicants

receive a payment, sent to their home energy supplier, for gas, electricity, propane gas, wood, coal or kerosene. cooling assistance is offered during the summer months. The benefit amount is \$220

When funds are available,

contact the gas provider of your available through the Georgia 1. For general senior discounts, choice and ask for the senior rate. A comparison chart is Public Service Commission (PSC) Web site:

www.psc.state.ga.us

yearly income level. Family

or \$250 depending on

must be a yearly income

equal to or less than 150%

or less and are 65 years of age or older qualify for a credit of up to discount. The credit is applied to provider or Atlanta Gas Light at the Atlanta Gas Light Company 3. For questions about natural gas household income of **\$14,355** Georgia PSC at Web site above. base charge portion of the bill. **\$14.00** to their bill. The bill For an application, call your (770) 994-1946 or visit the must be in the name of the senior who applies for the 2. Customers with a total

\$5,220 for each additional

household member.

For homebound individuals and seniors November 1 - all

others December 1 - March

31 or until funds are

exhausted

LIHEAP Program Period

guidelines. For a one-person

of the federal poverty

household, that is \$15,315;

for two people \$20,535. Income limit increases

244 Washington St., SW providers senior discount **Service Commission** Atlanta, GA 30334 **Georgia Public** 404-656-4501 programs contact:

For more information contact:

3597 Covington Highway

Decatur, GA 30032

404-929-2500

Community Action

Partnership for

Georgia Power offers \$20.00 off BENEFITS

monthly bill.

- 1. Total household income must be \$14,355 or less.
- 2. Applicant must be 65 years or older with proof of age.
 - 3. Bill must be in applicant's name.

Call the telephone number on your Application Process

your nearest Georgia Power office to obtain electric bill (1-888-660-5890) or visit an application. Mail applications to:

BIN #10101 241 Ralph McGill Blvd, Atlanta, GA 30308 **Georgia Power**

770-786-3484 • customerservice@ssemc.com P.O. Box 509, Covington, GA 30015 Snapping Shoals EMC

and minimum monthly charge. To qualify, the waiver of \$7.50 of the monthly service charge member must be 65 years of age or older with total household income of \$20,000 or less per year, address where utility is provided must Qualifying members will be eligible for the be primary residence.

Walton EMC

P.O. Box 260, 842 U.S. Hwy. 78, NW Monroe, GA 30655

770-267-2505 • info@waltonemc.com

Qualifying members will be eligible for a \$4 discount on the monthly service charge. You must be at least 65 with a total household address where utility is provided must be income of \$15,000 or less per year and primary residence.

program that offers qualified Lifeline is a government low income households a BENEFITS

www.lifelinesupport.org/li/ low-income/lifelinesupport. local telephone bill. For more information, visit

BENEFITS

- Connection charge waived \$13.50 off monthly bill
 - prior to connection of

Application Process

Must be a recipient of one or more of the following:

- 1. Atlanta Gas Light or electric senior citizen
- 2. Medicaid beneficiary
- 3. SSI recipient
- 4. Public Housing
- 5. LIHEAP assistance 6. Food stamps

4th Floor 304 Pine Ave. Albany, GA 31702 Contact or mail to:

1-888-757-6500

may offer this discount. Check *Other telephone companies with your provider.

Watershed Management Department of City of Atlanta BENEFITS discount on their monthly

Water

to provide verification of age, for a 30% discount on water requirements (must be able Senior Citizens are eligible and sewer bills. Eligibility income, and residence):

- You are 65 years or older. · You have a maximum household income of \$25,000 or less.
 - You are the primary leaseholder on the property subject titleholder or to the bill.
 - and sewer customer. Must be a City of Atlanta water

application via mail, contact Customer Service Division at 404-658-6500. Applications are also available at Fulton Watershed Management Senior Citizen Discount To obtain a Low Income the Department of

Avenue, 1st Floor, City Hall. facilities and the Customer Service Office at 55 Trinity Facilities, Atlanta libraries, City of Atlanta recreation County Senior Citizen

You May Qualify for the Medicare Savings Program (2008)

What is the Medicare Savings Program?	A federal program designed to assist individuals pay their Medicare premiums, deductibles, and coinsurance.	s pay their Medicare premiun	as, deductibles, and
Who qualifies?	Individuals with Medicare		
How do I qualify?	Qualifications are based on income and assets. See below for guidelines.	See below for guidelines.	
Where Do I apply?	Call GeorgiaCares at 1-800-669-8387 or apply at the DeKalb County DFCS at: 404-370-5000	pply at the DeKalb County DF0	CS at: 404-370-5000
Program Name	Program Will Pay	Income Guidelines* (Monthly)	Asset Guidelines*
	Medicare 2008 Part B Premiums ☐ \$96.40		
☐ QMB Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries	Medicare 2008 Deductibles & Coinsurance ☐ \$135 ☐ 20% Co- payment	Individual – \$887 Couple – \$1187	Individual – \$4,000 Couple – \$6,000
SIMB	Medicare 2008 Part B Premium	Individual – \$1,061	Individual – \$4,000
Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary	\$96.40 per month	Couple – \$1,420	Couple – \$6,000
☐ QI-1 (Qualifying Individual)	Medicare 2008 Part B Premiums \$96.40 per month	Individual – \$1,190 Couple – \$1,595	Individual – \$4,000 Couple – \$6,000
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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 \$1,300 as an individual or \$1,712 as a couple. Assets must also be less than \$11,710 as an individual or \$23,410 as a couple
Where Do I apply?	Call GeorgiaCares at 1-800-669-8387 or Social Security at 1-800-772-1213

^{*} If burial expenses here 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

Recipients of homestead exemptions also receive additional savings through the State of Georgia Homestead Tax Relief Grant and from the Homestead Option Sales Tax revenues. 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 \$52,440 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 \$52,440 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. It also grants the county assessment freeze until 2011.

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 office 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.