



**ChesedChicago**  
IMPACT THROUGH KINDNESS



**ChesedChicago and CMC**  
PRESENT

# Government Programs, Services, & Discounts for Seniors (age 60+)

**ENSURE THAT YOU OR YOUR PARENT ARE  
ACCESSING THESE HELPFUL PROGRAMS**

GIVEN BY

**Mrs. Chani Goldman**

Director of Government and Mental Health Programs, ChesedChicago

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2024**

**1:00 P.M.**

**CHICAGO MITZVAH CAMPAIGN**  
2757 W Pratt Blvd, Chicago, IL 60645

**HEALTH  
RELATED  
SERVICES**

# **Assessment & Care Coordination**

## **Qualifications:**

- 60 +
- Resident of IL

## **What is it?**

- IL Dept. of Aging, through the Community Care Program (CCP), offers a free comprehensive needs assessment and if appropriate, assistance in receiving various services. Services could include:
  - Homecare aides
  - Homemaker services
  - Adult day services
  - Emergency home response service
  - Automated medication dispensers
  - Assistance in applying for Rx assistance programs, property tax exemptions, and more.
  - Friendly visiting

## **How to apply:**

- Contact the Care Coordination Unit of Catholic Charities (773) 583-9224 to make a referral. Once a referral is made, a care coordinator will make a home visit and assist in determining eligibility for care and develop a plan of care.

## **Assessment**

- During this free 2 hour assessment a case manager will evaluate the senior's health, homecare needs (such as laundry, shopping, meal preparation, housekeeping, personal care, and physical capabilities to determine whether they qualify for the services they offer. If it is determined that various services would be helpful, the case manager will recommend and arrange for them to happen.

### **Cost:**

- If one meets the eligibility requirements and the household income is below the federal poverty level, the recommended care services are free.
- If the household income is above the poverty level, the state may still pay part of the cost of the service. The individual's share of the cost will depend on:
  - one's level of impairment
  - the cost of care
  - the number of people in the household needing services

## **Care Coordination Services**

### **Homemaker services:**

- Provides assistance with household tasks such as cleaning, planning and preparing meals, doing laundry, shopping and running errands.

### **Homemaker services:**

- Assist seniors with personal care tasks such as dressing, bathing, grooming, and following special diets.

### **Emergency Home Response Service:**

- A 24 hour emergency communication link to assistance outside the home. Service is provided by a two-way voice communication system consisting of a base unit and an activation device worn by the senior that automatically links them to the professionally staffed support center.

### **Adult Day Service:**

- Designed for seniors who want to have social interactions and can't be home alone during the day due to a physical, social and/or mental impairment. Services offered include health and medication supervision, personal care and recreational/therapeutic services, lunches and snacks.

### **Automated Medication Dispenser Service:**

- A portable, mechanical system that can be programmed to dispense or alert the senior to take (non-liquid) oral medications through auditory, visual or voice reminders.
- Provides tracking and caregiver notification of missed dosages
- Service is connected to a telephone line or cellular connection that doesn't interfere with the normal use of one's telephone or emergency home response system.

### **Friendly visiting:**

- Screened and trained senior volunteers who provide companionship and assistance when older adults can't be left alone for long periods of time.
- Provides companionship and/or respite for a caregiver.

**FREE SERVICES**

**Through**

**Medicare**

# Home Health Services

## Qualifications:

- People with Medicare part A and/or Part B who are:
  - Under the care of a doctor and under the doctor's plan of care
  - In need of one of more of these services:
    - Part time or intermittent skilled nursing care
    - Physical therapy, speech-language pathology, or continued occupational therapy.
  - Homebound (as certified by a doctor)

## What is it?

- In-home health services provided by a Medicare-certified home health agency could include:
  - Part time or intermittent skilled nursing care and home health aide care
  - Physical, occupational, and/or speech-language pathology services
  - Medical social services
  - Injectable osteoporosis drugs (for women)
  - Durable medical equipment
  - Medical supplies for use at home

## Cost:

- \$0 for covered home health care services.
- 20% of the Medicare-approved amount for Medicare-covered medical equipment after meeting the Part B deductible.

# Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP)

## Qualifications:

- Medicaid beneficiaries

## What is it?

- Free statewide health insurance counseling service for issues and questions regarding:
  - Medicare
  - Medicare Supplement
  - Medicare managed care
  - Appeals and claim filing

## Info:

- 800-252-8966 x 711
- [aging.ship@illinois.gov](mailto:aging.ship@illinois.gov)



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# DISCOUNTS AND FREE SERVICES

FOR SENIORS

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PREPARED BY



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# Cook County senior citizen homestead exemption

## QUALIFICATIONS:

- 65 +
- Reside in Cook County

## WHAT IS IT?

- A **second type** of exemption in addition to a regular homestead exemption.
- Reduces one's property tax bills by reducing the E.A.V. (equalized assessed value) of a home.
- Reduces the E.A.V. of a home by \$8,000.

## HOW TO APPLY:

- Call the Cook County Assessor's Office  
312-443-7550
- The Assessor's Office automatically renews Senior Citizen Exemptions for properties not sold to new owners within the last year.

## INFO:

- 312-443-7550 Cook County Assessor's Office

# License Plate Discount

## QUALIFICATIONS:

- 65 +
- Income-based  
(\$33,562 / 1 person household,  
\$44,533 / 2 person household)

## WHAT IS IT?

- Provides a discounted rate of \$10 on a license plate or license plate sticker for one vehicle per household per year.

## HOW TO APPLY:

- Department of Aging website (ilaging.illinois.gov) – click on the "Benefit Access" link for the application

## INFO:

- 800-252-8980
- [www.cyberdriveillinois.com/services](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/services)

# Senior Citizen Sewer Service Charge Exemption (OR REBATE)

## QUALIFICATIONS FOR EXEMPTION:

- 65 +
- Reside in a single family home or townhome w/ separate metered water service within the City of Chicago.

## QUALIFICATIONS FOR REBATE:

- 65 +
- Reside in a townhome, condo, or co-op unit w/ a shared metered water service within the City of Chicago.

## WHAT IS IT?

- Provides an exemption from payment of the sewer charge on one's water bill (or an annual \$50 rebate).

## HOW TO APPLY:

- Mail or email the paper application along with the required documentation. (Application and submission information found on the following page)

## INFO:

- 312-744-4420 - City of Chicago Dept. of Finance
- [www.chicago.gov/utilitybill](http://www.chicago.gov/utilitybill)

# Chicago City Sticker Senior Discount

## QUALIFICATIONS:

- 65 +
- Reside in the city of Chicago
- Valid IL driver's license

## WHAT IS IT?

- A discounted rate of \$30.59 / yr. for a City of Chicago vehicle sticker.

## HOW TO APPLY:

- In-person at a city sticker sales location
- Email: [ezbuy@cityofchicago.org](mailto:ezbuy@cityofchicago.org) (include a copy of your valid IL driver's license and a copy of your vehicle registration)

## INFO:

- 312-742-5375 City Hall – office of the city clerk

# Ladder Up Tax Assistance Program (TAP)

## QUALIFICATIONS:

- Full year resident of IL
- Income limit of \$32,000 / yr. for individuals and \$60,000 / yr. for families.

## WHAT IS IT?

- Free preparation and electronic filing by volunteers of federal and state income tax returns and amendments for previous years to help access tax refunds.
- Free financial education through the Financial Capability program

## HOW TO APPLY:

- All taxpayers on a tax return must be present at one of their
- in-person local tax sites

## INFO:

- 312-409-1555
- [www.goladderup.org](http://www.goladderup.org)

# Ride Free Transit Benefit

## QUALIFICATIONS:

- 65 +
- Income based (individual income of \$33,562 / yr. and a household income of \$55,000 / yr.)

## WHAT IS IT?

- A certificate that allows one to ride the local public transit system for free.

## HOW TO APPLY:

- Complete a Benefit Access Application online:
- [www.webapps.illinois.gov/AGE/BAA/Welcome.aspx](http://www.webapps.illinois.gov/AGE/BAA/Welcome.aspx)

## INFO:

- 800-252-8966

# Affordable Connectivity Program Internet for seniors

## QUALIFICATIONS:

- 65 +
- Based on household income

## WHAT IS IT?

- Free or discounted rates for participants in various government assistance programs.
- Basic internet plans beginning at \$10 / mo.
- Discounts of up to \$30 / mo. on broadband services.
- Discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, tablet, or desktop computer.

## HOW TO APPLY:

- [www.affordableconnectivity.gov/how-to-apply/](http://www.affordableconnectivity.gov/how-to-apply/)

## INFO:

- 877-384-2575
- Email: [ACPSupport@usac.org](mailto:ACPSupport@usac.org)

## **Senior Discounts on cell phone plans**

### **QUALIFICATIONS:**

- 55+

### **WHAT IS IT?**

- Discounted unlimited plans.

### **HOW TO APPLY:**

- [www.verizon.com/plans/55plus/](http://www.verizon.com/plans/55plus/)
- [https://www.t-mobile.com/cell-phone-plans/unlimited-55-senior-discount-plans?cmpid=MGPO\\_PB\\_P\\_](https://www.t-mobile.com/cell-phone-plans/unlimited-55-senior-discount-plans?cmpid=MGPO_PB_P_)

## **Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze Exemption**

### **QUALIFICATIONS:**

- 65 +
- Income-based (\$65,000 or less / yr.)

### **WHAT IS IT?**

- Freezes the appraisal value amount of the house so a home will always be taxed on the lower (frozen) amount.
- Reduction in the E.A.V. (equalized assessed value) of at least \$2,000.

### **HOW TO APPLY:**

- 312-443-7550 – Cook County Assessor's Office
- [Cookcountyassessor.com/senior-freeze-exemption](http://Cookcountyassessor.com/senior-freeze-exemption)

## **Senior Citizen Garbage Fee Discount**

- No application is required. If a customer is currently receiving the Cook County Senior Assessment Freeze, the Senior Garbage Fee Discount will be automatically applied to their utility bill.

## Silver Sneakers free fitness classes

### Qualifications:

- 65 +

### What is it?

- Free online fitness classes at home or in person at a local gym.

### How to apply:

- [https://tools.silversneakers.com/Eligibility/CheckEligibility?utm\\_source=google&utm\\_medium=cpc&utm\\_term=medicare%20silver%20sneakers&utm\\_campaign=yy\\_sem\\_g\\_br\\_ss\\_Insurance\\_em&utm\\_content=Insurance&gad\\_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiA4smsBhAEEiwAO6DEjS9x9df5i8nT1qZmip0msVog3gvqRYgXI6jDFvm9sVqvvacKo5TNRoCdN8QAvD\\_BwE](https://tools.silversneakers.com/Eligibility/CheckEligibility?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_term=medicare%20silver%20sneakers&utm_campaign=yy_sem_g_br_ss_Insurance_em&utm_content=Insurance&gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiA4smsBhAEEiwAO6DEjS9x9df5i8nT1qZmip0msVog3gvqRYgXI6jDFvm9sVqvvacKo5TNRoCdN8QAvD_BwE)

### Info:

- 866-584-7389

## Senior Discounts at Stores

Retailer	Discount	In-store or online	Eligibility	Discount availability
<b>Amazon Prime</b>	50% off prime membership	Online	Must receive some govt. assistance	Every day
<b>CVS Extra Care</b>	2% back in extra bucks rewards	Instore or online	CVS Extra Care card member	Every day
<b>Goodwill</b>	10% off purchases	In store	60+ years	Tuesdays
<b>Jo-ann Fabrics</b>	20% off purchases	In store	55+ years	Senior day schedule
<b>Kohl's</b>	15% off purchases	In store	60+ years	Wednesdays
<b>Ross Dress for Less</b>	10% off purchases	In store	55+ years	Tuesdays
<b>Michaels</b>	10% off purchases	In store or online	55+ years	Every day
<b>Walgreens</b>	20% off eligible items	In store or online	55+ years	Check store

## Senior Discounts for Transportation

Company	Discount	Eligibility
<b>Amtrak</b>	10% off most fares	65+ years
<b>British Air</b>	Various discounts	AARP member
<b>Delta Airlines</b>	Discounts for limited itineraries	Call Delta's care line 800-221-1212
<b>United Airlines</b>	Discounts on select destinations	65+ years