



State Representative

BABETTE JOSEPHS

182nd Legislative District

DISTRICT OFFICE:

Center City Office

1528 Walnut Street • Suite 1901

Philadelphia, PA 19102

Phone: 215.893.1515

Fax: 215.560.5816

William A. Barrett Nabuurs Center

2738 Dickinson St.

Philadelphia, PA 19146

Phone: 215.952.3376

Wed. 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

CAPITOL OFFICE:

House of Representatives

House Box 202020

Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Phone: 717.787.8529

Fax: 717.787.5066

E-mail: bjosephs@pahouse.net

Web site: babette.org

A Guide to Services and Benefits for Pennsylvania's Older Adults



State Representative

BABETTE JOSEPHS

182nd Legislative District



For more information on state programs and links to various state agencies, check out the:

Democratic Web site at
www.pahouse.com

To be sure you have the most current information, please call the listed phone numbers, as some services and fees may have changed since this booklet was printed.

lpo•mc•rev. 12/04



Table of Contents

General Departments or Agencies Especially for Older Adults	1
General State Assistance for All Ages	4
Employment and Volunteer Work	7
Rebates, Discounts and Other Benefits	11
Transportation	16
Health Services	17
Housing	20
Library Services.....	23
Self-Improvement/Leisure Activities	24
Helpful Tips.....	25

Voting

To vote in Pennsylvania you must be registered. Act 25 of 1995, Pennsylvania's Voter Registration Act, made it easier for people to register by enabling individuals applying for or renewing a driver's license to use the same form to register to vote. Public assistance offices, state offices providing services to the disabled and armed forces recruitment offices are required to offer clients help in completing voter registration applications.

You also can register by mail. Your state representative will be happy to bring or send you a registration form.

You can register if you have been a United States citizen for at least 30 days and have been residing at your current address for the same period of time. If you have not lived at your current address for 30 days, you can vote at your old address if you are registered.

In the past, registered voters who did not vote at least once every two and one-half years were removed from the rolls. Federal law now prohibits this purging except when a person moves, is incarcerated or dies.

General Departments or Agencies Especially for Older Adults

Pennsylvania **Department of Aging**

This department within state government was formed in 1979, and oversees a variety of programs listed here. In addition, it prepares state legislation beneficial to older adults.

PA Dept. of Aging
Forum Place, Fifth floor
555 Walnut St.
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1919
(717) 783-1550
E-mail: aging@state.pa.us

Area Agencies on Aging

For the most part, this will be your prime contact for a host of programs and services. Fifty-two of these agencies operate under the Department of Aging and serve all 67 Pennsylvania counties. (*The name, address and phone number of the agency which serves your area is listed on the inside front cover of this booklet.*)

A message from your state representative

You'll be pleased to know that millions of older Pennsylvanians like you are benefiting from dozens of services the state has tailored to your particular needs.

In fact, few states can match Pennsylvania when it comes to providing practical programs for older citizens.

This booklet is designed to give you a quick, comprehensive guide to the more important of these programs — and some federal ones, too — as well as the agencies that offer them. (There also are listings of agencies and programs that are not exclusively intended for senior citizens, but that can help you with problems that frequently occur.)

On the inside cover you will find the address and telephone number of the Area Agency on Aging that serves our area. For the most part, this will be your prime contact for services.

In every instance where applicable, addresses and phone numbers (some toll free) are listed so that you have quick access to people who can help you in matters ranging from health care, employment and volunteer opportunities to housing and home weatherization, transportation and tax assistance.

In addition, listed here are a host of free services and reduced fees available to older Pennsylvanians. To be sure you have the most current information, please call the listed phone numbers, as some services and fees may have changed since this booklet was printed.

I encourage you to take the time to look through this booklet and to keep it in a handy spot for future reference. Most of all, I urge you to take full advantage of any programs for which you may qualify, and to call me if you have questions.

Remember, along with every other state official or agency listed here, I am as close as your telephone or mailbox.

Following is a sampling of the routine services available from these agencies:

Telephone Reassurance — someone will call you every day to ask about your needs and to bring you up to date on community events.

Transportation — rides will be provided to your doctor's office or to a social service agency.

Information and Referral — someone will give you answers to many of your questions about programs and benefits.

There are other benefits these agencies can help you with, such as employment, placement and casework services; information on senior centers and senior citizen clubs in your area; adult day care centers; and more! There's information on many other services handled by or through the area agencies on aging on the following pages.

The State Lottery

Here are the benefit programs for senior citizens currently funded through the Pennsylvania Lottery.

Property Tax and Rent Rebates: Provides cash rebates to homeowners and renters 65 or older who meet income requirements. (see page 11) Rebates range up to \$500 a year for the poorest households.



Aging Programs: The state Department of Aging, which subsidizes 52 area agencies on aging, provides a variety of benefits and services to senior

citizens: home-delivered and congregate meals, free transportation, homemaker services, day care, employment counseling, legal services, and health and drug education.

Absentee Ballots: Many senior citizens are eligible to vote by absentee ballot. These include registered voters who will be absent from their county of residence by reason of occupation, business or duties; persons unable to go to the polls because of illness or physical disability; persons employed by the state or federal government and their dependents under certain circumstances. If you are on vacation outside of your county (even to go fishing or hunting for the entire election day), you are eligible for an absentee ballot. You may also vote by absentee ballot if the election falls on a religious holiday. Call your representative for details.

In addition to regular application procedures and deadlines, any elector who, after the Tuesday prior to the election, becomes physically ill or disabled, or is called out of the county because of business, occupation or duties, may apply for an absentee ballot by filling out an emergency application up until 5 p.m. on the Friday before election.

If you are disabled, you may apply to the county to get on a permanently disabled electors list. An absentee ballot application will be sent automatically to you. (A physician's supporting declaration is needed once every two years.)

- Never give information over the phone indicating when you will or won't be home. Never let a caller know you're home alone.

- Make sure you have a lock on your bedroom door.

Fraud...The Con Game

According to the AARP, older citizens are victims of fraudulent schemes far out of proportion to their population numbers. Con artists are slick, so you've got to keep your guard up; be skeptical.

- Be aware of what people are saying.

- Never be rushed into any deal.

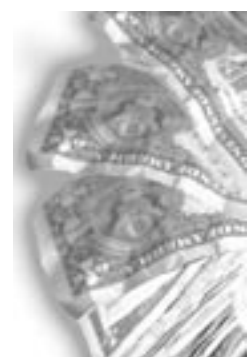
- Know what you are signing. Carefully read "receipts" or "minor contracts."

- If you are being offered something for nothing it's usually a phony deal.

- Stay away from secret deals and plans. Don't fall for it.

- Never turn over any sizable amount of cash to anyone, especially strangers offering to help you "get rich quick."

Contact your local police, the Commission on Crime and Delinquency at **1-800-692-7292**, or the Office of the Attorney General at **(717) 787-3391** in cases of suspected fraud.



■ Older women are often the victims of purse snatchings. Don't carry a purse if you can avoid it.

■ Never carry or flash large sums of cash.

■ If a friend takes you home or you take a taxi, ask the driver to wait until you are safely inside before leaving.

■ Have your keys ready so you can get inside with a minimum of fuss.

What if you are attacked?

If you are attacked by an unarmed assailant, scream, call for help, kick, bite, struggle. . . anything that will help you break away to safety. Contact your local police department.

Your Home

Residential burglary is a serious problem everywhere. But since it's mostly a crime of opportunity, you can discourage the average burglar by making your home a tough target.

■ Use deadbolt locks on all exterior doors.

■ Protect windows and other entries with good locks.

■ Always keep your doors locked. Have a peephole in the door so you can see callers without opening it.

■ Don't rely on security chains because they can be broken easily by a determined assailant.

■ Never let a stranger into your home. Insist on proper identification. If the person can't show it or you're suspicious, call the police or the company the person represents for verification.

Pharmaceutical Assistance: Seniors who are single with an income of up to \$14,500 or married with an income of up to \$17,700 can have all but the first \$6 paid of their prescriptions for generic drugs and \$9 for brand-name drugs paid for by the state Lottery Fund.



Seniors whose income is between \$14,500 and \$23,500 for individuals and between \$17,700 and \$31,500 for married couples must pay a monthly \$40-per-person deductible before benefits begin. Under this tier, all but the first \$8 for generic drugs and \$15 for brand-name drugs will be paid for by the state Lottery Fund.

Long-Term Care: Reimburses nursing homes and hospital rehabilitation wards that are certified to participate in the medical assistance program for skilled and intermediate nursing care to patients who need both permanent and temporary care. Most patients are 65 or older.

Free Mass Transit: Reimburses mass transit agencies for providing free transit in off-peak hours to all people 65 or older. Also subsidizes reduced fares for senior citizens on special door-to-door transit services.

Vehicle Registration: Subsidizes reduced vehicle registration fees for senior citizens.

Senior Center Renovation: For rehabilitation and accessibility projects in senior centers.

Medicare Part B: To pay for Medicare for needy elderly.

26

3

Self-Improvement/ Leisure Activities

Every community has its own unique variety of leisure time activities for senior citizens. Contact your Area Agency on Aging to find out what is offered in your area.

Here are a couple that might be of interest:

Adult Education

Most public schools and many colleges and universities offer continuing education courses ranging from music to woodworking to philosophy — beginning and advanced. Some can be applied toward a degree. While there usually is a charge, there often are reduced rates for senior citizens. Contact your local school system or college admissions office.

Elderhostel

With this program you can spend a week or more during the summer on the campus of one of numerous participating colleges and universities in Pennsylvania and across the United States. Take one or more classes, join in all campus activities — all with persons your own age. One low fee covers instruction, room and board. High school graduation is not required.

Penn State University
118 Keller Bldg.
University Park, PA 16802-1300
(814) 863-1738

Bureau of Consumer Protection

This office is part of the Pennsylvania Attorney General's office. It will investigate any consumer complaint, contact the company or agency in question, and attempt to mediate the problem. There are regional offices in Harrisburg, Allentown, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Erie and Scranton. For the address and phone number of the office nearest you contact:

Bureau of Consumer Protection
Strawberry Square, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120
(717) 787-9707

Utility Services Termination

The Public Utility Commission has a toll-free number (1-800-692-7380) you may call regarding the shutting off of your gas, electricity, sewage, and water service (phone and oil are not included).

If you have utility problems that are not related to termination of service, call the Commission at 1-800-782-1110. Call the numbers Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., or write to the commission at 400 North St., Commonwealth Keystone Building, Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265 or P.O. Box 3265, Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265.

Benefits for Veterans and Dependents

The U.S. Veterans Administration, the Commonwealth and all counties administer programs for veterans and their dependents. Following is a compilation of some of the more important benefits applicable to senior citizens.

Compensation: This is payable to veterans who are disabled by injury or disease incurred or aggravated during active military service. It is payable to a survivor if the veteran's cause

24

5

General State Assistance for All Ages

Office of Attorney General

If you feel a violation of state law occurred while you were a resident of a state-owned or state-licensed facility (e.g. state hospital or state-licensed nursing home), this department will investigate. Contact:

Office of Attorney General
Strawberry Square, 16th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120
(717) 787-3391

Pennsylvania Legal Services

If you need legal advice on living wills, landlord-tenant matters, public housing, SSI, Social Security, marital or other problems, you may be eligible for free legal services. Contact your Area Agency on Aging or:

Pennsylvania Legal Services
118 Locust St.
Harrisburg, PA 17101
(717) 236-9486

For information on which of your local attorneys can best handle your legal matters — including the making of a will — contact:

Pennsylvania Lawyer Referral Service
100 South St., P.O. Box 186
Harrisburg, PA 17108-0186
TOLL FREE 1-800-692-7375
(Mon. - Fri., 8 a.m. - noon;
1:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

4

of death was related to the disabling injury or disease.

Pensions: These are payable to wartime veterans with limited income who have been discharged under other than dishonorable conditions and who are permanently and totally disabled for reasons not traceable to military service. All veterans 65 or older are eligible for benefits. Pension benefits may be payable to the surviving spouse.

Burial Expenses: The Veterans Administration will pay burial expenses if the veteran was entitled to compensation or pension benefits at the time of death. Further, each county provides additional burial allowances. The County Veterans Affairs Office will provide assistance to a survivor in applying for these benefits.

Burial in National Cemeteries: This is available to any deceased veteran discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. Burial is also available to an eligible veteran's wife or husband. Headstones and markers are provided by the Veterans Administration. The VA National Cemetery in Pennsylvania is at Fort Indiantown Gap, Annville.

State Veterans Homes: The Commonwealth operates veterans homes that provide nursing and domiciliary care to eligible veterans. For information or applications contact your County Veterans Affairs Office or your state representative.

Vital Records: Copies of birth and death certificates are available. Your state representative's office will assist you in securing these vital documents.

6

Helpful Tips

Appealing Your Property Tax Assessment

Your real estate taxes are based on the tax rates set by local governments applied to a "property assessment" established by the county assessment office.

This property assessment should reflect the fair market value of your real estate as compared with similar properties in the area. You can get information concerning your real estate assessment from the county assessment office, and if you feel the assessment is too high, you should begin by discussing the matter with the county assessor.

There is a county tax assessment Board of Appeals which will hear your appeal if you still feel your assessment is too high. Applications for an appeal to this board are available either from the county assessor or the county commissioner's offices. This is an official board, and you may wish to be represented by an attorney, although it is less formal than a court and taxpayers often appear to represent themselves.

Further appeals may be made to the county Court of Common Pleas, where you should be represented by an attorney.

Protecting Yourself From Crime

When you go out:

- Try to arrange to have a companion with you when walking.
- Plan your route in advance, and be sure to use well lit streets if you must go at night.
- Walk on the curbside away from buildings where an assailant could conceal himself.

25

Library Services

Large-print books, recordings, talking books, bookmobiles, mail order delivery of materials and many special programs are available to older persons. Contact your local library or:

State Library of Pennsylvania
Library Development Division
P.O. Box 1601
Harrisburg, PA 17105-1601
(717) 787-8007

Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

Special libraries for the blind and physically handicapped make available reading materials recorded on records and cassette tapes, plus Braille materials, talking book machines and attachments, cassette recorders, and other special library services. Contact:

Library for Blind and Physically Handicapped
Free Library of Philadelphia
919 Walnut St.
Philadelphia, PA 19107
(215) 683-3213
TOLL FREE: 1-800-222-1754

Library for Blind and Physically Handicapped
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
4724 Baum Blvd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-1389
(412) 687-2440
TOLL FREE: 1-800-242-0586

23

Energy Conservation

If your energy bills seem to be high, here are some ways to keep them down:

- Close off rooms and heating to rooms that are not used often. Keep your heat in the rooms you use the most.
- Seal cracks and holes where air can leak through walls and ceilings, at basement foundations, around windows and doors and at attic entry ways. This can be done with low cost materials like insulating foam, latex caulk and plastic sheeting.
- Close shades and curtains at night. In the daytime open them on windows that face south.
- Wrap the hot water pipes coming from the hot water heater.
- Set your water heater thermostat between 110 and 115 degrees. You can do this yourself if you have a gas or oil heater. Electric and tankless heaters may require professional help.
- Insulate your water heater.
- Close the damper in your fireplace. Much heat is lost up open chimneys.
- Fix leaky hot water faucets. A single leak can cost over \$100 a year.
- Have your heating unit checked to see if it is running properly and tuned up to operate more efficiently.
- Change filters in your heating unit.

Although setting your thermostat back at night or when you're away from home can also lower your energy bills, be careful — you are more likely to get sick from being cold.

22

Housing

There are a number of federal and state programs available to you as an individual or to organizations to help you fix up your home, find new housing, or lower your rent through subsidies.

Contact your Area Agency on Aging, or your county or municipal public housing authority. (Look in the phone book under the name of your city or county for housing and/or redevelopment authority or agency.)

Weatherization

A state program will help you "weatherize" your house by caulking, weatherstripping, insulating, installing storm windows and improving furnace efficiency. If you meet certain income standards, services are available at no charge to both homeowners and renters (with permission of the landlord).

For the agency in your community, call your county assistance office or contact:

**Department of Community and
Economic Development
Office of Community Services
4th Floor, Commonwealth Keystone Bldg.
Harrisburg, PA 17120
(717) 787-1984**

20

Employment and Volunteer Work



Reaching 65 does not mean the end of productivity. Nor should it mean that loneliness is inevitable. If you are interested in working for pay, there are a number of organizations that can help you. There also are more avenues opening up for older adults who seek fulfillment by volunteering their services. Some of the agencies that operate under state auspices — or federal programs which are administered through the state — are listed below.

Pennsylvania State Employment Service

These offices are located throughout the state. Each has an Older Employment Specialist who can evaluate your employment capabilities and needs, and give you information on work opportunities. For an address and phone number, check your phone book under "Pennsylvania, Commonwealth of."

7

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

The office can help those with permanent disabilities to prepare for new jobs. Services include medical exams and evaluations, and referral to appropriate centers for restorative treatment and vocational training. The office also helps individuals who have been injured and cannot return to their old jobs.

There are 17 regional offices in the state. To find the one nearest you, contact your local Office of Employment Security listed in the "Pennsylvania, Commonwealth of" section of your phone book.

Unemployment Compensation

If you have been released from your job through no fault of your own, you may be eligible to receive unemployment compensation checks for a certain period of time. If you have quit your job for good cause, you may be eligible if a determination of eligibility is made. For further information, contact your local Job Center.

Foster Grandparent Program

This federal program, administered through area agencies on aging, offers an opportunity for older adults to work with children in pediatric wards, homes for dependent children, and in institutions for the mentally retarded, emotionally disturbed, and physically handicapped.

Foster grandparents work four hours a day, five days a week, receive a stipend based on the cost of living index, and accrue sick and annual leave. Benefits include a free annual physical exam, a complimentary hot meal, accident and liability insurance, and transportation assistance. If you are 60 or older

9

Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission

The commission will investigate complaints of Pennsylvania residents 40 through 70 who believe they have been victims of age discrimination by employers, employment agencies or labor organizations.

Investigations also will be conducted for those of all ages who allege discrimination on account of race, sex, color, religious creed, ancestry, national origin, or non-job-related handicap or disability.

For assistance, contact the commission's regional office nearest you:

MAIN OFFICE:

**Pennsylvania Place
301 Chestnut St.
Suite 300
P.O. Box 3145
Harrisburg, PA 17101
(717) 787-4410**

PHILADELPHIA:

**711 State Office Bldg.
1400 Spring Garden St.
Philadelphia, PA 19130
(215) 560-2496**

HARRISBURG:

**Riverfront Office Center
5th Floor
1101-1125 S. Front St.
Harrisburg, PA 17104
(717) 787-9784**

PITTSBURGH:

**11th Floor, State Office Bldg.
300 Liberty Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
(412) 565-5395**

8

and meet certain income requirements, you may be eligible. Contact your Area Agency on Aging or:

**Corporation for National Service
Foster Grandparents
1201 New York Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20525
1-800-424-8867**

Senior Work Experience Program

Experience Works Inc. is a private nonprofit company that operates the Senior Community Service Employment Program in 38 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties, primarily in rural areas. Individuals over 55 and on very limited income are eligible for job training and job search assistance. No fees are charged. For information on eligibility and local opportunities, contact (800) 854-1578 or visit www.experienceworks.org.

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

Volunteers work at state museums, historical sites or properties. Work may include craft instruction, exhibit upkeep, and a variety of maintenance and administrative duties. Contact any State Historical and Museum Commission property near you or:

**Pennsylvania Historical and
Museum Commission
300 North St.
Harrisburg, PA 17120
(717) 787-3362**

10

Energy Assistance

If you own a home or rent a residence and meet income requirements, you may be able to get help paying winter heating bills through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program established by the federal government.

LIHEAP is operated in Pennsylvania by the Department of Public Welfare, but it is not a welfare program and it is not a loan (you are not required to repay the money you receive). No lien is placed on your property, and you do not need to have a service termination notice.

Income limits and funding availability are determined annually. Check with the county assistance office for up-to-date information.

If you qualify, payment for your heating bill will be made either directly to the local public utility for credit to your account or to the head of your household if, for example, your heat is included in your rent.

To apply for LIHEAP, make an appointment with or visit your local county assistance office. If you are homebound and cannot travel to the office, please call the office and a representative will take your application at your home.

Emergency Energy Assistance

In addition to qualifying for LIHEAP, a homeowner or renter may receive an emergency grant in any of the following situations:

- You have received a termination notice.
- You receive a LIHEAP grant but still are unable to meet the terms of a payment agreement.
- Your gas or electric service has been shut off.
- Your furnace needs to be repaired.

For emergency grant information, please call your local county assistance office.

21

Mental Health/ Mental Retardation

Mental Health/Mental Retardation offices are found in every county. They can refer you to inpatient, outpatient, and partial hospitalization, residential, emergency, and rehabilitative services in or close to your community. If you are depressed, there are caring professionals on hand 24 hours a day to talk over your problems with you. Specialized care for older persons at the community level is available in some areas.

Contact your local Mental Health/Mental Retardation office under your county listings, or:

**Office of Mental Health
and Substance Abuse Services
Department of Public Welfare
P.O. Box 2675
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2675
(717) 787-6443**

**Office of Mental Retardation
Department of Public Welfare
Harrisburg, PA 17120
(717) 787-3700
or
1-888-565-9435**

19

There may be a charge for some of these services, depending on your income. However, Medicare and Medical Assistance will cover a limited number of visits prescribed by a physician.

Contact your State Health Center or your Area Agency on Aging for more details.

Drug and Alcohol Problems

If you or a loved one has a problem, or you just need information on how to correctly use prescribed drugs, you can contact one of 45 local agencies in the state operated by the Office of Drug and Alcohol Programs, Department of Health.

Check your county phone listings, or contact:

**The National Drug Abuse Hotline
1-800-662-4357**

18

Transportation

Pennsylvania's Free Transit Program for Senior Citizens

Those 65 or older can take advantage of free transit service on local established route bus, trolley, and rapid transit lines during the midday and evening hours on weekdays and all day Saturday, Sunday, and holidays. (Sorry, free rides are not permitted on weekdays from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m., or from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.)

To show eligibility, you will need a Medicare card or a senior citizen identification card. The driver may also request other proof of age. The ID card is available free from participating local transit operators.

Contact your local transit operator or:

**Free Transit Program for Senior Citizens
Bureau of Public Transportation
400 North St., 6th Floor
P.O. Box 3151
Harrisburg, PA 17105
(717) 783-8025**

Other Transportation Services

Local area agencies on aging also provide transportation for older people who have special needs, or in areas where regular mass transit services are not available. You can use this service for rides to senior centers, medical appointments, and social service agencies.

16

Rebates, Discounts and Other Benefits

Rebates for Property Taxes and Rent Payments

People 65 or older, widows/widowers 50 or older, or people 18 or older with a disability who have limited incomes may be eligible to receive a partial refund for property taxes and rent payments made during a calendar year.

Payments can be as high as \$500, depending on income (a maximum of \$15,000) and actual rent or tax costs.

A 1999 state law expanded the program by allowing claimants to deduct half of any Social Security or railroad retirement benefits from their income when determining eligibility. This means that while the income limit for this program still is \$15,000, applicants with incomes of \$18,000, \$19,000, \$20,000 or more may be eligible for the first time because they don't have to count all of their Social Security and railroad retirement income.

Rebate application forms are available from state legislators' offices, state Revenue Department offices, or the department's Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program.

**PA Department of Revenue
Property Tax or Rent Rebate
P.O. Box 280503
Harrisburg, PA 17128-0503
(717) 787-8201 / 1-888-222-9190**

Claims are taken between January and June each year.

11

If you have other questions about PACE, call toll free 1-800-225-PACE or your local Area Agency on Aging. For use with telecommunications devices for the deaf (TDD), call 1-800-222-9004.

Discounts

Motor Vehicle Registration: Under this program, certain retired individuals can register their car or truck for an annual \$10 fee, instead of the usual \$36 or \$54. You are eligible if you are retired on a fixed income that does not exceed \$19,200. You can get the necessary forms from local notaries public, area agencies on aging, or:

**Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Motor Vehicle Bureau
1101 S. Front St.
4th Floor, Riverfront Office Center
Harrisburg, PA 17104
1-800-932-4600**

Dog Licenses: In most counties, senior citizens may purchase dog licenses for reduced fees, paying lower fees for spayed or neutered dogs than for productive dogs. Lifetime licenses are available for a one-time fee. To qualify for a lifetime dog license, the dog must be tattooed with a number on the right hind leg, upper part of the inner thigh. The tattooist's fee is additional. Contact your county courthouse for current local fees.

**Dog Law Enforcement Bureau
Department of Agriculture
2301 N. Cameron St., Room 102
Harrisburg, PA 17110
(717) 787-3062**

13

State Income Tax Exemptions

If you are 65 or older you do not have to pay state income taxes on Social Security payments, railroad retirement, any pension benefits (including veterans benefits), and Supplemental Security Income. For further information, contact the Department of Revenue at (717) 787-8201.

You may also call the department's 24-hour information line at 1-888-PATAXES.



Helping to Pay for Prescriptions

Funded by the lottery, the Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract for the Elderly will pay all but the first \$6 for generic or \$9 for brand-name medicines prescribed by a physician. This program is available to seniors 65 or older with an annual income under \$14,500 for single people and under \$17,700 for married couples. Individual seniors who make up to \$23,500 and married couples who make up to \$31,500 are eligible for PACENET. This plan includes a monthly \$40 deductible and higher copayments of \$8 for generic drugs and \$15 for brand-name drugs.

To apply for PACE or PACENET, an application should be obtained from local area agencies on aging, senior citizen centers, pharmacies, or your legislator's office. The completed form should be sent to PACE with photocopies of proof of age and residence. (Note: married couples must submit separate applications.)

A PACE card is then sent to those eligible individuals to be used at participating Pennsylvania pharmacies displaying the PACE emblem. Prescriptions may also be obtained through the mail. Eligibility is subject to annual renewal.

You must pay \$6 for each generic prescription filled by the pharmacist. An additional fee may be charged if you request a brand-name medication.

12

Hunting & Fishing Licenses: Older persons can get licenses at reduced rates of \$13 (hunting) and \$11 (fishing). Lifetime licenses are also available for \$51 (hunting) and \$51 (fishing). A lifetime combination license is \$101.

NOTE: Free fishing licenses are available for Pennsylvania veterans with 100 percent service-connected disabilities.

Licenses may be obtained from sporting goods stores, county treasurer's offices, or:

The PA Game Commission
2001 Elmerton Ave.
Harrisburg, PA
17110-9797
(717) 787-4250

The PA Fish and Boat Commission
1601 Elmerton Ave.
P.O. Box 67000
Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000
(717) 705-7800

Make sure you present proof of age when applying for these licenses.



State Parks/Camping: If you are over 65, your camping fee at Pennsylvania state parks is reduced by \$3 per day. Pennsylvania does not charge for admission to any state park or for use of picnic areas and restroom facilities. However, there may be charges for use of swimming pools, boat rentals or other park facilities.

14

Health Services

In addition to federal Medicare and Medicaid benefits, there are several state-funded programs that offer health services.

State Health Centers

A number of free services are available from these centers found in many locations around the state. Just a few of these services include blood pressure testing, individual counseling and selected immunizations.

Each center is staffed with professional public health nurses. In addition, doctors, nutritionists, physical therapists, social workers and other professionals are periodic visitors who specialize in preventive health care. For a phone number, look in the phone book under "Pennsylvania, Commonwealth of," and locate the listing for Department of Health. Or you may contact your local Area Agency on Aging.



Health Care in the Home

If a doctor determines that you temporarily need nursing and home assistance services during illness or convalescence, Home-Health Services can help you. Such services include skilled nursing, therapeutic care (including speech, physical, and occupational therapy), and medical social services. You also can get assistance in shopping, meal preparation, personal care, and other household functions.

17

Contact any state park office or:

Bureau of State Parks
Rachel Carson State Office Building
P.O. Box 8551
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8551
TOLL FREE: 1-888-PA-PARKS

State Museums and Historical Sites: There are reduced rates for you of approximately 30 percent to 50 percent at all Pennsylvania State Historical and Museum Commission museums, sites, and properties depending upon the regular adult fee.

Contact the staff at any property or visit the local Web site of the museum.

Food Stamps: You are entitled to food stamps if you meet income and resource requirements. For information, contact your County Public Assistance Office.



15



**YOUR AREA AGENCY ON AGING
FOR PHILADELPHIA COUNTY IS:**

Philadelphia Corporation for Aging
642 N. Broad St.
Philadelphia, PA 19130-3409
(215) 765-9000
www.pcaphl.org