

FEDERAL BENEFITS

SOCIAL SECURITY: DISABILITY, SURVIVORS AND RETIREMENT BENEFITS

When you work in a job that is covered by Social Security, you pay taxes into Social Security. This tax money is used to pay benefits to:

- People who have retired (usually starting as early as 62, but some widows/widowers may qualify as early as age 60);
- People who are disabled (this means not being able to work at any job);
- Survivors of covered workers who have died; and
- Dependents of covered workers.

If you think you may qualify for Social Security benefits you need to apply on-line at www.ssa.gov or call 1-800-772-1213.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI)

This is a federal program administered by the Social Security Administration. Persons who have not made enough tax payments under the regular Social Security system may be able to get this benefit. SSI provides cash help citizens and some qualifying non-citizens who are:

- Aged (65 and older),
- Blind
- Or disabled (including children with disabilities)
- And have low income and assets.

If you think you may qualify call 1-800-772-1213. If you are able to get SSI, you usually can get food stamps and Medicaid. Medicaid helps pay doctor and hospital bills. See the section on state benefits if you are interested in these programs

MEDICARE

Medicare is the federal program that provides health care insurance for older Americans and the disabled. To be eligible for Medicare benefits, you must be 65 or older or have received Social Security Disability benefits for more than 2 years, regardless of your age. If you are on kidney dialysis or are a kidney transplant patient, or are suffering from Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) you can also enroll in Medicare.

The Medicare program is divided into a number of parts:

- Part A provides coverage for hospitalization;
- Part B covers outpatient and physician services; and
- Part D provides prescription drug coverage.

Persons who have paid Social Security taxes and qualify for Social Security Benefits receive the Part A coverage for free. There is a premium charged to receive the Part B and D coverage. If you don't enroll for Part B or D coverage at age 65, or when you become eligible for Medicare if you are disabled, you may pay a higher premium later.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is the agency in charge of the Medicare program, but you apply for Medicare at your local Social Security office. If you are interested in applying for this health care program, or need more information, you can go on-line at www.medicare.gov or call 1-800-MEDICARE or 1-800-772-1232

Check what other benefits you may qualify for <http://benefitscheckup.org>

STATE BENEFITS

TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)

This program provides cash and medical assistance to families that have children under age 18 and have limited income and assets. You may be able to receive TANF if:

- You and your children have no income (or are extremely low income) and few assets, or
- You are caring for children other than your own, and you are related to the child (your income and assets are not used to decide if you are eligible for TANF if you are not the parent of the child)
- AND the child is a citizen or a qualifying non-citizen

In most instances, a person receiving TANF is limited to 60 months of benefits during their lifetime, but there are

some exceptions to this rule due to health problems, domestic violence or you are working at least 30 hours a week, to name a few. The Illinois Department of Human Services operates the TANF program. In DuPage County you can apply for TANF at:

Illinois Department of Human Services
146 W. Roosevelt Rd.
Villa Park, IL 60181
Phone: 630-530-1120
Open Mon. thru Friday
8:00 AM to 5:00

FOOD STAMPS/LINK CARD

You can receive help to buy food if:

- You have a low income and few assets
- You are a U. S. citizen, or
- A lawful permanent resident who has been in the U.S. at least 5 years and has a history of work or
- You are a lawful permanent resident who is under 18 or been found to be blind or disabled

The way you apply is easy. You need to fill out an application at the local Illinois Department of Human Services Office. You will need to be interviewed by the state caseworker. This is usually done in the state office, but if you are unable to go to the office because of transportation problems, your health or a conflict in your

work hours, you can ask to be interviewed over the phone. You will need to ask for the phone interview and the reason.

In DuPage County you can apply for Food Stamps/LINK card at:

Illinois Department of Human Services
146 W. Roosevelt Rd.
Villa Park, IL 60181
Phone: 630-530-1120
Open Mon. thru Friday
8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Not sure if you want to apply, you can get an estimate of the food stamps you would receive at: <http://www.dhs.state.il.us:080/FSCalc/FSInputCalc.do?lang=en>

CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE

To see if you can get help with child care go to:;
<http://www.dhs.state.il.us/ts/child/ChildCareDevelopment/CCD/eligcalc.asp>

Illinois residents, who are low income, may be able to receive help pay for the cost of child care needed to go to a job or school. Eligibility is based on the family income and the number of persons in the home. If you are interested in applying for this benefit, in DuPage County you need to call:

YWCA Child Care Resource & Referral
739 Roosevelt Road, Building 8, Suite 210
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
(630) 790-8009

STATE OPERATED PROGRAMS THAT HELP TO PAY MEDICAL COSTS

As you are well aware, the cost of medical insurance and care is always increasing. You may be able to get some help to pay for your medical expenses if you are:

- Age 65 and older
- Blind or Disabled
- Caring for a child under age 19 (you must be related to the child)
- A child under age 19 (you do not need to be living with your parent or a relative to receive medical help)
- Pregnant

The State of Illinois operates a number of programs that help pay for medical expenses. Some of the names of the programs are **Medicaid, Kidcare, Family Care, Parent Assist, All Kids, and Emergency Medicaid for Non-Citizens**. The rules to qualify vary by each program. If you are interested in this type of help and you live in DuPage County you can apply at:

Illinois Department of Human Services
146 W. Roosevelt Rd.
Villa Park, IL 60181
Phone: 630-530-1120
Open Mon. thru Friday
8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

There are a number of other special programs that help pay for medical expenses. Following is a list of some of them and a phone number to call for more information:

- **Illinois Cares Rx Basic (formerly Circuit Breaker; Form IL-1363):** helps pay prescription costs for 10 common diseases: Alzheimer's disease, Arthritis, Cancer, Diabetes, Glaucoma, Cardiovascular disease, Lung disease and smoking-related illnesses, Osteoporosis, Parkinson's disease, and Multiple sclerosis. This is available to low income Illinois residents (there is no citizenship requirement), who:
 1. are age 65 and older,
 2. or 16 and older and qualify as disabled (this means you are receiving Social Security, Veteran's benefits, Civil Service, Railroad Retirement Benefits, have a class 2 disability card issued by the Secretary of State, or doctor's statement verifying you are permanently and totally disabled),
 3. And live in a residence subject to the mobile home or property tax.

If you are eligible for Medicare you have to have applied for "extra help" to pay the cost of Medicare D and actually enroll in a Medicare D plan. **Call 1-800-226-0768.**

- **Illinois Cares Rx Plus (formerly Senior Care):** helps pay prescription costs for low income persons, 65 and over, and are U.S. citizens or qualified aliens. If you are eligible for Medicare, you have to have applied for "extra help" to pay the cost of Medicare D and actually enroll in a Medicare D plan. **Call: 1-800-624-2459 or 1-800-948-5034**
- **Illinois Rx Buying Club:** helps save on the cost of prescriptions for Illinois residents with a household income equal to or less than 300% of the Federal Poverty Level, who have an Illinois Disabled Person Identification card and a doctor states you have a Class 2 disability (this means your disability significantly affects your ability to work). **Call 1-866-215-3462**
- **I-Save Rx:** is a program that offers residents of Illinois access to prescription drugs from Canada, Ireland, and the United Kingdom. If you enroll in the program you may save from 25-50% on brand name prescriptions. Covered drugs for chronic illnesses and oral contraceptives are included. There are no enrollment fees, income or age restrictions. **Call 1-866-472-8333.**
- **Illinois Cares Rx Rebate:** helps cover the cost of your health insurance which includes drug coverage, by providing you a rebate of \$25 a month. You must also qualify for the Illinois Cares Rx Basic or Plus drug coverage (so you have to meet the age and disability requirements). **Call 1-800-226-0768.**
- **Health Benefits for Workers with Disabilities:** The goal of this program is to help people with disabilities return to work and still keep their full Medicaid coverage. **Call: 1-800-226-0768**
- **Comprehensive Health Insurance Program:** Provides health insurance for persons, who have been denied insurance due to a pre-existing condition, and who has one of 31 conditions, or whose health insurance costs more than the CHIP premium. **Call: 1-866-851-2751**
- **Division of Specialized Care for Children** provides care coordination and financial assistance for eligible families and children with special health care needs **call 1-312-996-6380**

LOCAL RESOURCES

There are many local resources. These are just a few that are available.

DUPAGE COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES

Provides help through a wide range of programs and services including:

- Energy assistance
- Health Care Assistance
- Home Weatherization and Housing Assistance
- Transportation Assistance
- Senior Services

For information about these and many of the other programs contact the **Information and Referral** line at 1-630-407-6500

ACCESS DUPAGE

Health coverage for low income persons who do not qualify for any other government sponsored health care program. This is not an insurance program, nor is it intended to replace health insurance. Persons potentially eligible are:

- Persons who are under 65
- Live in DuPage County
- Low income (below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level)

If you are interested or need more information **CALL:**
1-630-510-8720 or e-mail pattyp@accessdupage.org

LOCAL MEDICAL SOURCES

Various health services are available at the following locations, with fees for services being charged on a sliding scale based on income.

- DuPage County Health Department
111 N. County Farm Rd.
Wheaton, Illinois 60187 **PHONE:** 630-682-7400
- Martin T. Russo Family Health Center
245 S. Gary Ave. Suite 200
Bloomingdale, Illinois 60108 **PHONE:** 630-893-5230
- West Chicago Family Health Center
245 W. Roosevelt Rd. Bldg 14 Suite 150
West Chicago, Illinois **PHONE:** 630-293-4124

TOWNSHIP OFFICES

Township offices provide financial and limited medical assistance to persons not eligible for other state or federal programs. Townships also provide temporary emergency assistance. Persons potentially eligible for township assistance must:

- Live in the township,
- Be at least age 18,
- Meet income guidelines

If you want to apply or need more information call the township office that serves your address:

- **Addison Township:** 530-8161
- **Bloomingdale Township:** 529-9993
- **Downers Grove Township:** 968-0451
- **Lisle Township:** 968-2087
- **Milton Township:** 668-1616
- **Naperville Township:** 355-2786
- **Wayne Township:** 231-7173
- **Winfield Township:** 231-3591
- **York Township:** 620-2400

ILLINOIS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING CENTER

The Illinois Employment and Training Center (IETC) provides a "one-stop" location for job seekers and employers to access a wide variety of employment, training education, economic development, and related services at one location. Agencies located at the IETC include: College of DuPage, DuPage County Workforce Development, Illinois Department of Employment Security, Parent's Alliance Employment Project, Northeast Area Agency on Aging, Illinois Department of Human Services, and the Office of Rehabilitation services.

Illinois Employment and Training Center

837 S. Westmore-Myers Rd

Lombard, Illinois (in the East Gate Shopping Center)

Call 630-495-4345 TDD: 630-495-0655.

BASIC NEEDS (FOOD, CASH HELP, ETC.)

American Red Cross	312-729-6100
Catholic Charities	495-8008
DuPage County Human Services I&R	407-6500
Toll Free 1-800-942-9412	TDD/TTY 407-6502
Family Shelter Services (for Women & Children)	469-5650
.....	TDD 221-8058
Hinsdale Community Service	323-2500
Hunger Coalition Hotline	1-800-359-2163
IL Dept of Human Services (formerly Public Aid)	800-843-6154
.....	TTY 800-447-6404
.....	Local office - Villa Park - 530-1120
IL Dept of Veterans Affairs	690-9449
IL Employment and Training Center	495-4345
LIHEAP	See DuPage County Human Services
LOVE Christian Clearinghouse	512-8665
Naperville Cares	369-0200
Northern Illinois Food Bank	443-6910
Outreach Community Center	260-7600
P.A.D.S. of DuPage	682-3846
People's Resource Center (PRC)	682-5402
Salvation Army, The	629-4948
Veterans Assistance Commission	407-5655
Wheaton Youth Outreach	682-1910
Walk-in Ministries	
Walk-in Ministry of Hope	322-9803
Elmhurst	782-6006
Glen Ellyn	469-3510
Lombard/Villa Park/Itasca	693-0185
Lutheran Church of the Master	665-5188
Resurrection Catholic Community	289-2510
Northwest DuPage Walk-in Ministry	293-4958
WIC (Women, Infant, Children)	682-7979 Ext 7559
Working Wardrobe (assists w/interviewing & apparel) .	691-1455

Not sure where to go for help, call 1-800-942-9412,

Or go online at: <http://www.dupagecris.org/>