



FOOD, FUEL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR CARLISLE RESIDENTS

The Carlisle Council on Aging provides support and enrichment to Carlisle seniors and helps residents of all ages who are in need of food, fuel or emergency financial assistance. This brochure provides an overview of the programs we can help you access to address these needs.

FOOD AND NUTRITION

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides food purchasing assistance funded by the USDA and administered by the states. This program is open to people of all ages. For seniors and people with disabilities eligibility is 165% of the federal poverty level. The maximum monthly benefit is \$204 for an individual and \$374 for a couple. For more information visit www.mass.gov.

The COA distributes Farmer's Market coupons and delivers Meals on Wheels to eligible seniors. Through the generosity of the Friends of the Carlisle Council on Aging the COA also has funds available to assist seniors with their food support needs. We maintain a list of local food pantries and are connected to other resources that assist residents of all ages.

HEATING ASSISTANCE

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federally funded program that helps eligible households with heating costs during the winter months. Depending on your household income you may qualify if you own or rent your home, even if heat is included in your rent. Covered heating sources include oil, gas, electricity, propane, kerosene, wood and coal.



BENEFIT INFORMATION

- The amount of your benefit is based on household size, gross annual household income, housing type and heating costs. If you are approved for the program you will receive a letter indicating your benefit amount.
- The Fuel Assistance program runs from November 1st to April 30th of each year. Payments are generally made directly to vendors for heating bills or oil deliveries occurring during this time frame.
- Households with heat included in rent will be reimbursed at the midpoint of the winter heating season.
- When you are approved for Fuel Assistance you are automatically eligible for a discount on your monthly National Grid or Eversource bill.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility is based on household size and gross annual household income. Renters with heat included may still be eligible if rent exceeds 30% of gross annual household income.

2020/2021 Income Limits for Fuel Assistance

Household Size	Gross Annual Household Income Up To
1	\$39,105
2	\$51,137
3	\$63,169
4	\$75,201

For households of 5 or more visit www.mass.gov for guidelines

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for Fuel Assistance, residents of all ages may contact the Carlisle Council on Aging to make an appointment. The following documents are needed to complete your application:

- **Photo ID**
- **Income documentation**
- **Social Security cards for all household members**
- **Proof of Income for past 30 days**
- **Heating and electric bills**
- **Copy of Mortgage Statement, Real Estate Taxes, Homeowner's Insurance or Lease**

Your completed application will be submitted to Community Teamwork which administers the Fuel Assistance program for Carlisle. You may also call them directly for an appointment at 978-459-6161 or visit www.commteam.org



ENERGY CONSERVATION SERVICES

If you are approved for Fuel Assistance you may also be eligible for services to make your home more energy efficient. These services include free energy audits, appliance, lightbulb and thermostat replacement, insulation, weather-stripping and other measures. You may also qualify for free repair or replacement of your primary heating system.

LOCAL HEATING ASSISTANCE

Through the generosity of the Friends of the Carlisle Council on Aging the COA maintains a Fuel Assistance Fund to help all seniors for whom winter heating costs present a financial burden. This includes those who do not qualify for LIHEAP as well as those who need assistance beyond what LIHEAP provides.

For those under 60, we can help you access other resources for heating assistance, including the Carlisle Neighbor Fund, the Salvation Army Good Neighbor Fund and the Concord Carlisle Community Chest.



CIRCUIT BREAKER TAX CREDIT

The Circuit Breaker Tax Credit enables eligible seniors ages 65 and over to claim a refundable credit on their personal state income tax return. The Circuit Breaker Tax Credit is based on the actual real estate taxes paid on the residential property you own or rent and occupy as your principal residence.

For tax year 2020 the income limits for the Circuit Breaker Tax Credit are \$61,000 for a single individual who is not the head of a household, \$76,000 for a head of household and \$92,000 for a married couple filing jointly.

The maximum credit amount for tax year 2020 is \$1,150.

In order to claim this tax credit you need to file a Massachusetts personal income tax return along with Schedule CB.

If you are a homeowner, your Massachusetts property tax payments, together with half of your water and sewer expense, must exceed 10% of your total Massachusetts income for the tax year.

If you are a renter, 25% of your annual Massachusetts rent must exceed 10% of your total Massachusetts income for the tax year.

More detailed information on eligibility and filing requirements for the Circuit Breaker Tax Credit is available at www.mass.gov

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF PROGRAMS

There are a number of programs available to seniors and people with disabilities that can reduce the amount of property taxes you owe. Call the Carlisle Assessor's Office at 978-369-0392 or visit the Assessor's page on the town website, www.carlislema.gov, for detailed eligibility information and to obtain an application.

EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The COA can also help with Emergency Financial Assistance. With support from the Friends of the Carlisle Council on Aging and the Carlisle Neighbor Fund, Emergency Assistance funds are available for residents over 60. In the past these funds have helped seniors with essential car repairs, unexpected medical bills, temporary housing costs and more. Residents under 60 facing a financial emergency may also contact the COA to request a referral to local resources.

FORMORE INFORMATION AND TO APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE PLEASE CALL THE COA



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