

# Kansas Department on Aging

## Financial Assistance Programs Fact Sheet

With the tough economic times, many seniors are coming up short at the end of the month or if an unplanned emergency happens. Some agencies have programs that can help with specific needs. Often the best way to “find” more cash in your monthly budget is to see where it is going and then try to find a program to fit that need. Below are some programs that are available.

### **Homestead Property Tax and Food Sales Tax Refund –**

These refunds offer some cash back based on your income tax. Application must be made during the tax season of January 1 through April 15 each year. Both programs have eligibility criteria to be met, but the basic eligibility is over age 55, a Kansas resident all year and income eligibility. The Food Sales Tax Refund offers from \$39 to \$80 and Homestead offers up to a \$700 refund. You must file the appropriate forms to get this refund. Forms can be requested at 785-296-4937. More detailed information is available from the Kansas Department of Revenue at 785-368-8222 or [www.ksrevenue.org](http://www.ksrevenue.org). The forms are available on the web site, or at any of the locations that carry the regular tax booklets. Some urban (Topeka and Kansas City, KS) communities are also currently offering a franchise fee refund.

### **Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) –**

LIEAP offers payment assistance with your heating cost. It is a one-time annual payment and may not cover the entire bill. Payment is made in conjunction with your energy provider. This program is open from mid-January through March each year. The application is made through the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS). You can call 800-432-0043 for full eligibility criteria and to get the form. Information is also available at [www.srskansas.org/services.htm](http://www.srskansas.org/services.htm).

### **Medicare Savings Programs –**

In varying degrees the Medicare Savings Program can help pay the Medicare premiums, deductibles and co-payments for eligible individuals. Applications for these programs are available from SRS. Call 888-369-4777 for the closest office. More information is available from the Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas (SHICK) volunteers across the state. Call 800-860-5260 to find a volunteer near you.

### **Prescription Drug Programs –**

A few pharmaceutical companies offer free or reduced prescription drugs to low income or high risk individuals. Each company will have their own criteria and application process. Enrolling in the best Medicare Part D plan you can afford and that meets your needs is important. During the open enrollment period, November 15 through December 31, be sure to review your current medications and costs to see if you need to change your plan.

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (formerly Food Stamps) –**

Provides cash assistance for the purpose of purchasing food. The USDA Food Commodities program can also help people with low income. Applications are available from SRS, call 888-369-4777 for the closest office.

If you are over age 60, another way to stretch your food dollar is to participate in a congregate meal program at a senior center, church or other location. An area agency on aging will be able to help you find them in your community, call 800-432-3535 to find one close to you. Some communities have food banks, local churches or other agencies that can also help with food products.

**Social Security Supplemental Income (SSI) and Disability Income –**

Extra income may be available to certain individuals through these two programs. Contact your Social Security office for more information.

**One time emergency assistance** is sometimes available from entities such as the Red Cross, Salvation Army, churches or other local assistance groups. Eligibility criteria vary and you will need to contact the local groups to determine eligibility and availability.

*The Kansas Department on Aging (KDOA) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. If you believe you have been discriminated against by either KDOA or a KDOA funded program, please contact KDOA to receive additional information on filing a complaint: 1-800-432-3535 (voice); 1-800-766-3777(TTY).*