

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR SENIORS

QUICK FACTS

July 2018 – June 2019

Financial Assistance Programs

Albertans are mailed a Seniors Financial Assistance application three months before their 65th birthday; one application will enroll eligible seniors for the Alberta Seniors Benefit, Special Needs Assistance and Dental/Optical Assistance for Seniors programs (administered by Alberta Health).

Alberta Seniors Benefit Program

A monthly benefit paid to eligible seniors with low income including accommodation assistance for eligible seniors living in designated supportive living and long-term care.

Special Needs Assistance for Seniors Program

This program provides financial assistance to seniors with low income to assist with the cost of appliances and specific health and personal supports. Up to \$5,000 is available in a benefit year.

Generally, seniors with an annual income under \$27,690 or senior couples with a combined annual income under \$44,965 may be eligible for the Alberta Seniors Benefit and Special Needs Assistance programs.

Seniors Property Tax Deferral Program

Senior homeowners can defer all or part of their property taxes through a low-interest home equity loan with the Government of Alberta.

Seniors Home Adaptation and Repair Program

A low-interest home equity loan program to help seniors finance repairs or adaptations to their homes. A maximum loan of \$40,000 is available to seniors with an annual income of \$75,000 or less, and who have a minimum of 25 per cent home equity.

For more information on financial assistance programs contact:

Alberta Supports Contact Centre
Toll-free: 1-877-644-9992
Edmonton: 780-644-9992
www.seniors-housing.alberta.ca

Health Programs and Services

Dental Assistance for Seniors Program

Provides up to \$5,000 of basic dental coverage every five years.

Optical Assistance for Seniors Program

Provides up to \$230 for prescription eyeglasses every three years.

Single seniors with an annual income under \$31,675, or senior couples with a combined annual income under \$63,350 are eligible to receive dental and optical benefits.

For more information contact:

Alberta Supports Contact Centre
Toll-free: 1-877-644-9992
Edmonton: 780-644-9992
www.seniors-housing.alberta.ca

Alberta Blue Cross Coverage for Seniors

Premium-free coverage is provided to seniors and their eligible dependents to cover 70 per cent of prescription drugs and pay a portion of some health-related benefits.

For more information contact:

Toll-free: 1-800-661-6995
www.ab.bluecross.ca

Residential Access Modification Program (RAMP)

Provides grants to help lower-income Albertans with mobility challenges modify their homes so they can enter and move around more easily.

For more information on RAMP contact:

Toll-free: 1-877-427-5760
www.humanservices.alberta.ca/ramp

Alberta Aids to Daily Living Program

Assists Albertans with a long-term disability or chronic or terminal illness to purchase medical equipment and supplies.

Alberta Supports Contact Centre

Toll-free: 1-877-644-9992
Edmonton: 780-644-9992
www.health.alberta.ca

Housing

Seniors Self-Contained Housing

Apartment-style accommodation for low and moderate-income seniors who are functionally independent. A tenant's rent, which includes heat, water and sewer expenses, is based on 30 per cent of a household's adjusted income.

Seniors Lodges

Lodges provide bed and sitting rooms, for low and moderate-income seniors who are functionally independent. Residents receive meals, housekeeping, recreational opportunities and other services.

For more information contact:
780-422-0122; Toll-free 310-0000,
then 780-422-0122
www.seniors-housing.alberta.ca

Advocacy

Seniors Advocate

The Office of the Seniors Advocate supports seniors and their families by providing resolution support to senior Albertans, their families and caregivers; identifying trends and systemic issues impacting seniors and making recommendations to government for improvements to senior services and programs.

For more information contact:
780-644-0682; Toll-free: 1-844-644-0682
seniors.advocate@gov.ab.ca
www.seniorsadvocateab.ca

Personal Matters

Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee

The Public Guardian and Trustee may act as court appointed decision maker for individuals who are unable to make personal and financial decisions for themselves.

For more information contact:
Toll-free: 1-877-427-4525

Elder Abuse

A number of resources and agencies are available to help individuals who may be experiencing elder abuse. For information and assistance contact the Family Violence Info Line at 310-1818 for 24-hour advice and referrals in over 170 languages. Information and resources are available on the Seniors and Housing website.

Protection for Persons in Care Investigates reports of abuse or safety concerns involving adults receiving services from government-funded agencies such as nursing homes, lodges, hospitals and group homes.

To report abuse, or if you have concerns about the safety and security of a vulnerable adult, call toll-free: 1-888-357-9339

Federal Pension and Financial Assistance

Canada Pension Plan

Retirement pension paid monthly to those who have contributed to the Canada Pension Plan. Payments may begin as early as age 60. Survivor and disability benefits are also available.

Old Age Security

Paid monthly to seniors who are 65 and over, and who have lived in Canada for a minimum of 10 years.

Guaranteed Income Supplement

Paid monthly to seniors who receive Old Age Security and have little or no other income. The Guaranteed Income Supplement is added to the Old Age Security payment.

The Allowance/Allowance for the Survivor

Paid monthly to low-income Canadians aged 60-64, whose spouse or common-law partner receives the Guaranteed Income Supplement or has passed away.

For more information contact:
Toll-free: 1-800-277-9914
www.canada.ca

PHONE:

Alberta Supports Contact Centre, toll-free at 1-877-644-9992 or 780-644-9992 in the Edmonton area

Deaf or hearing impaired with TDD/TTY units, call 1-800-232-7215 or 780-427-9999 in the Edmonton area.

MAIL:

Seniors and Housing
P.O. Box 3100
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4W3
Fax: 780-422-5954

WEBSITE:

www.seniors-housing.alberta.ca