



At The Capitol...240-8523

Weatherization Assistance Program

You may be eligible for free assistance in weatherizing your home or apartment. (Your application for Energy Assistance is also an application for Weatherization Assistance.) Measures may include insulation of your attic and/or walls, storm windows, and servicing of your heating system. Contact the Community Renewal Team, Inc. at 560-5800 for additional information.

Statewide Respite Care Program

This program offers relief to stressed caregivers by providing information, support and services for the individual with Alzheimer's Disease or related dementias. There is a maximum of \$3500 in services available per year to each applicant, and a maximum of 30 days of out of home respite care services (excluding Adult Day Care) available per year to each applicant. For more information on the Connecticut Statewide Respite Program call 1-800-994-9422 to be directed to your nearest Area Agency on Aging.

Locating Affordable Rental Housing

The Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) has joined with Socialserve.com, a non-profit housing search company, to create a free housing registry to help people find accessible and affordable rental housing in Connecticut. www.CTHousingSearch.org is a statewide listing service allowing renters to search for up-to-date vacancies and get landlord contact information. Units that are accessible for people with disabilities will be identified. A bilingual call center will be available to assist landlords and renters. For more information go to www.CTHousingSearch.org or call (877) 428-8844.

Energy Assistance Programs

The following programs are available to help Connecticut residents with their heating bills and in conserving energy. Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) helps households pay for primary heating bills. If the household's primary heating costs are included in your rent, you may also apply for assistance.

You may be eligible if:

- ◆ You receive cash assistance from the State (Temporary Family Assistance, Aid to the Aged, Blind or Disabled, or Refugee Assistance),
- ◆ Your household receives Food Stamps,
- ◆ Your household receives State Administered General Assistance, or
- ◆ Your annual household income is at or below 150% of the federal poverty guideline.

CEAP also helps households with elderly (aged 60 and over) or disabled members pay for their primary heating bills. Call 2-1-1 Infoline or a Community Action Agency to check on income guidelines.

Private Fuel Banks - Many Connecticut towns have private fuel banks that provide winter energy assistance to local residents who do not qualify for the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program. For more information, call 2-1-1 Infoline and ask for the location of the fuel bank nearest you.

Utility Arrearage Forgiveness Programs - Most of Connecticut's gas and electric utility companies offer assistance programs that can help customers pay a portion of their utility back bills. (There are eligibility requirements in order to qualify.) For more information, contact your utility company or your local CAA.

Winter Protection Program (Utility Shutoff Moratorium) - Most of Connecticut's gas and electric utility companies participate in the Winter Protection Program. Participants in this program will be coded by their utility companies as "hardship cases" and will not have their utility service shut off between November 1st and May 1st of each year. For more information, contact your utility companies. **Utility Conservation Programs** - Most of Connecticut's gas and electric utility companies offer energy conservation materials and services that are free for lower income households. Contact your local utility company for information.

Energy Conservation Loan Program - You may be eligible for a low-interest loan to pay for insulation, energy conservation measures, heating improvements and renewable resource improvements for your home. For more information, contact the Connecticut Housing Investment Fund (CHIF) at 1-800-992-3665.

CONNECT-ABILITY

CONNECT-ABILITY can assist those who have had a disability for years or have recently experienced an illness or injury, with the information, support and tools necessary to gain meaningful employment. To contact CONNECT-ABILITY's Career Center please call 1-866-844-1903 or e-mail: info@connect-ability.com.

The Partnership for Prescription Assistance

Many people have difficulty affording health care, including prescription medicines. The Partnership for Prescription Assistance helps those who lack prescription coverage:

- Enroll in more than 150 company patient assistance programs.
- Access more than 1,200 medicines for free or nearly free.
- Learn how to contact government programs for which they may qualify, such as Medicaid, Medicare or the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

For more information please call 1-888-477-2669 or visit the web site at www.pparx.org.

Tax Credits for Families

You could get up to thousands of dollars in tax credits for you and your family. Whether or not you owe income tax, if you work and have children you could qualify for:

- Up to \$2,100 from the federal Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit;
- Up to \$4,716 from the federal Earned Income Credit; and
- Up to \$1,000 per child from the federal Child Tax Credit.

To get these credits, you must file a tax return.

Find out where you can get FREE help with your taxes by calling the IRS toll-free at (800) TAX-1040 or (800) 829-1040.

Legal Service Programs

Connecticut Legal Services is a private, non-profit, civil law firm dedicated to helping low-income families and individuals obtain justice. For more information call (860) 244-0380 or call Greater Hartford Legal Aid at (860) 541-5000.

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Helpful Programs For You and Your Family

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