

Financial Assistance for Halifax Residents

Introduction

The Town of Halifax, the Commonwealth and other agencies offer a variety of programs to help reduce taxes and many other expenses for seniors, veterans, people with disabilities, income-qualified households and others and to help these groups with ongoing challenges. We encourage residents to make use of these programs and to refer family, friends and neighbors who may be eligible. Participation is confidential.

To help you make informed decisions about these programs and many other opportunities, the Council on Aging is available to answer questions and provide information. Call 781-293-7313 to get started.

If you would like one or more copies of the paper version of the Financial Assistance Summary, please contact the Council on Aging at 781-293-7313. Please be sure to include your address and phone so we can contact you with any questions.

In addition, to review possible state and federal benefits, you may want to visit "Economic Checkup Now", at <https://www.benefitscheckup.org/esi-home/> and sponsored by the National Council on Aging.

Employment

SCSEP (Senior Community Service Employment Program): Assessment, skills training, temporary, part-time job placement for unemployed older (55+) unemployed workers. Contact Operation Able at 617-542-4180, toll free at 888-470-2253 or visit operationable.net. Please call Citizens for Citizens for more information at 508-679-0041 and ask for the Senior Aide Program.

For Unemployment, call the Massachusetts Department of Labor and Workforce Development's TeleClaim Center at 617-626-6800, Monday to Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. If you want to file in person, visit one of the following offices: Career Works, 34 School Street, Brockton, Monday - Friday, 9:00 am - 4:30 pm; Taunton Career Center, 72 School Street, Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm; Plymouth Career Center, 36 Cordage Park Circle, Suite 200, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Wednesday, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm.

For career and employment guidance and information about opportunities for training, visit the Massachusetts Division of Career Services in Career Works, 34 School Street, Brockton, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 9:00 am - 4:30 pm, Thursday, 9:00 am - 6:30 pm; Taunton Career Center, 72 School Street, Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm; Plymouth Career Center, 36 Cordage Park Circle, Suite 200, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Wednesday, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm.

Food, Clothing, Children and Household

Food Pantry: The Halifax Congregational Church food pantry, 503 Plymouth Street, is open on Tuesday from 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm. Call the church at 781-293-6393 if you need to visit during other hours. Our Lady of the Lake Church also provides food assistance. Call the Rectory Office at 781-293-7971 for more information.

Old Colony Elder Services Elder Nutrition Program provides a noontime meal at the Council on Aging Center (Pope's Tavern), or home delivered for housebound seniors. This meets 1/3 of daily nutritional requirements; \$2.50 requested donation. Call the Council on Aging at 781-293-7313 or visit oldcolonyelderservices.org.

Food Stamps are available from the state Department of Transitional Assistance; call the Council on Aging 781-293-7313 or the Department of Transitional Assistance at the Plymouth Office

508-732-3100 or visit at 61 Industrial Park Road #2, in Plymouth from Monday - Friday, 7:30am to 5:00pm.

The Healthy Harvest Program: The Council on Aging sponsors a program in which area farmers deliver fresh free summer produce twice a month with the assistance of South Shore Community Action. Call the Council on Aging at 781-293-7313 for more information.

Toys: The Halifax Fire Department and the Halifax Girl Scouts run an annual toy drive at the beginning of December. The toys and gifts are given to the area churches for distribution.

Health Services

Prescription Advantage: A state program to reduce prescription drug costs for Medicare enrollees. There is a SHINE Counselor on Tuesdays to help with this program, call the Council on Aging at 781-293-7313 for an appointment, or 800 AGE INFO (800-243-4636) or see the Prescription Advantage web site at massresources.org.

Mental Health/Counseling Services: The Halifax Council on Aging will give referrals (when possible) to other social service agencies that may be able to help.

Mass MedLine: Eliminate or reduce prescription drug costs through this state program. Call 866-633-1617 or visit MassMedLine.com.

SHINE: Serving the Health Needs of Elders provides insurance advice for elders and Medicare recipients. Contact the Council on Aging at 781-293-7313 for an appointment.

Podiatrist: A podiatrist visits the Council on Aging center every 5-6 weeks. Call the Council on Aging at 781-293-7313 for an appointment or more information.

Housing and Home Heating Assistance

Affordable Housing: Rental and home ownership opportunities are available for eligible households. Contact the Halifax Housing Authority for more information at 781-294-4520.

Disabled accommodation: If you paid for home improvements to accommodate a household member age 60+ with a disability, you may qualify for a property tax exemption. Contact the Assessors at 781-293-5960.

Housing subsidies: The Halifax Housing Authority and South Shore Housing provide state or federal, elderly, disabled or Section 8 housing programs. Call the Housing Authority at 781-294-4520 or South Shore Housing at 781-422-4200 or visit southshorehousing.org.

Home buying assistance: South Shore Housing provides information about a number of programs (both financial and general advice) for first-time home buyers. Contact them at 781-422-4200 or visit southshorehousing.org.

The South Shore Women's Resource Center provides emergency crisis intervention, including a 24-hour hotline, temporary emergency shelter, support, information and referrals. It also sponsors SAFEPLAN court advocacy for individuals seeking orders through the Abuse Protection Act and advocacy and support services for victims of domestic violence including teens in violent dating relationships. Contact them at 508-746-2664; 24 hour hotline 888-746-2664 or visit thesswrc.org

Legal Assistance

The Halifax Council on Aging sponsors a once a month program, Ask a Lawyer, at the Council on Aging, which features free legal advice and consultation. Contact the Council on Aging at 781-293-7313 for an appointment.

South Coastal Counties Legal Services provides free civil legal services to low-income and elderly residents. Contact them at Fall River Office 508-676-6265; Brockton Office 508-586-2110; Taunton Office 508-880-6704; New Bedford Office 508-979-7150 or visit sccls.org.

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Safety and Crime Prevention

TRIAD is a community policing initiative between senior volunteers, the Fire Department, the Police Department, Sheriff's Department and the Council on Aging. The primary goal is to increase the safety of seniors through education and crime prevention. TRIAD members hold meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the Halifax Police Station, 540 Plymouth Street. The annual TRIAD health fair is in October at the Halifax Country Club. Please note during the month of January and February TRIAD does not meet.

School Fee Assistance

School Fee Exemptions: Fees for school-related services such as transportation, lunch, sports, arts participation, after- and before-school programs and field trips may be waived or reduced. To learn more, call the Silver Lake Regional School District Administrative Office at 781-585-4313.

Tax Assistance

Property Tax Circuit Breaker: for qualifying seniors, the Property Tax Circuit Breaker may reduce your state income taxes by up to \$900, or give you a rebate. Call the Council on Aging at 781-293-7313.

Property Tax Exemptions: Halifax offers tax exemptions for seniors, veterans, legally blind and other qualifying taxpayers to the fullest extent allowed by state law. Requirements vary for different exemptions. Contact the Assessors at 781-293-5960 for information and assistance.

Tax Deferral Program: Qualifying homeowners age 65+ may defer all or part of their property taxes until the property is sold or transferred. The Town then receives deferred taxes plus 4.5% annual interest. Contact the Assessors at 781-293-5960.

Tax Abatements: Residents who believe that their real estate, motor vehicle or personal property was incorrectly assessed may contact the Assessors to request an abatement through an appeal process. The appeal period varies based on the particular tax. Call the Assessors at 781-293-5960.

Tax Assistance: Call the Council on Aging to make an appointment with the SHINE counselor or the Town's Assessors Office at 781-293-5960.

Veterans' Services

Veterans' Services: The Veterans' Agent provides referrals and assistance to Halifax veterans and their dependents for a wide range of programs and services. Call Veterans' Services at 781-293-1724.

Feedback wanted!

Is this Financial Assistance Summary helpful to you? Please send your comments to the Halifax Town Administrator's office by telephone 781- 294-1316; by mail (499 Plymouth Street, Halifax, MA 02338) or send an e-mail to cseelig@town.halifax.ma.us at the Town Hall. Thanks for your suggestions.