

Energy Assistance

Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP), which is administered by the Department of Social Services and coordinated by New Opportunities Inc., is designed to help offset the winter heating costs of our most vulnerable lower income households. The Elderly Services completes applications for winter heating aid for low-income elderly households from October through May. Income and asset verification is required.

Southbury Emergency Fuel Bank - Clients are required to apply first to federal and state energy assistance programs before requesting assistance through the Emergency Southbury Fuel Bank. For those who qualify, assistance is offered only in crisis situations or after the client has exhausted all other forms of energy assistance benefits. For those who do not qualify for other assistance programs, assistance is offered on a one-time basis. The fuel bank is a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization. Contact the Elderly Services Office for additional information

Home Visits

To help seniors remain independent and in their own homes, a home visit may be conducted to assess resident's needs, determine possible services and link them to entitlement programs. An Elderly Services staff member will gather information concerning an applicant's health, medications, tasks the senior needs, income and any other concerns that may arise during the visit. Services are recommended based on an individual's needs.

Medical Assistance

Title 19 (Medicaid)

The Medicaid program provides for remedial, preventive, and long term medical care for income eligible aged, blind or disabled individuals

Medical Equipment

The Town of Woodbury has medical equipment, including but not limited to, crutches, walkers, wheelchairs, canes, commodes, and shower chairs, available on a no-charge loan basis to the residents of Woodbury and Southbury. Residents may keep them as long as needed. They also accept donations of medical equipment that are in excellent condition.

Please contact the Woodbury's Selectmen Office at 203-263-2141 for additional information or to arrange the loan of equipment.

Municipal Agent

The Municipal Agent for the Elderly program was established in 1972 by the Connecticut State Legislature in order to assure that elderly persons in each town have an officially appointed representative who is responsible for providing elders with information and assistance on services and benefits.

The position of Municipal Agent for the Elderly is incorporated into the Elderly Services Director position. Information, referral, and assistance are available by contacting Sharon Gesek, Monday through Friday between 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM at 203-262-0651.

Nutrition Assistance

The Southbury Food Bank (203) 721-0377 - is open Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 AM – 12 Noon and select Saturdays. It is housed at the Southbury Training School. Non-perishable food items are available along with a food voucher to the Southbury Food Center; where clients may purchase meat, milk, eggs or other perishable items. A referral form from Elderly Services is required prior to your first visit.

SNAP - The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps, helps low-income people and families afford the cost of food at the supermarket or grocery store. You can apply for these benefits by completing a state application form. This form can be mailed, faxed, or dropped off at your local DSS Regional Office. Applications are also available at the Elderly Services Department.

Congregate Meal Sites

Congregate meal sites provide hot, nutritionally balanced meals to the elderly or disabled adults in a group setting who may otherwise not eat properly and who can profit from an opportunity to socialize with others. Eligibility requirements for program participants include:

60 years of age or older

Regardless of your age, you are the spouse of the person 60 + years of age

Handicapped or disabled individuals who reside in a housing facility

Meal Sites in Southbury include:

- Southbury Senior Center (203) 262-0631
- Southbury, Grace Meadows (203) 264-3228
- Southbury, Jewish Federation (203) 267-3177 (Wednesday Only)

(Please call the meal site for details on meal times and reservations requirements.)

Home Delivered Meals

Home-delivered meal programs provide elderly residents of Southbury with a nutritious, hot meal each day. For a nominal fee, older adults who are homebound or unable to prepare a meal can have them delivered by a volunteer 5 days a week.

Meals on Wheels in Waterbury: (203) 757-7738

Catered with Care (VNA) throughout Connecticut: 1-800-466-3227 (HOMECARE)

Renters Rebate

State law provides a reimbursement program for Connecticut renters who are elderly or totally disabled, and whose incomes do not exceed certain limits. Persons renting an apartment or room, or living in cooperative housing or a mobile home may be eligible for this program. The renters' rebate amount is based on a graduated income scale and the amount of rent and utility payments made in the calendar year prior to the year in which the renter applies. Applications, by appointment, may be made at the Elderly Services Department between May 15 and September 15th.

Tax Relief

The Town of Southbury has several programs which offer substantial property tax relief for qualifying seniors **THROUGH THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE:**

State-funded "Circuit Breaker" program: Provides property tax reductions of up to \$1,250 for qualified homeowners and up to \$900 for qualified renters who are age 65 or older and the totally disabled of any age. The qualifying income limits for the state program in 2010 is \$39,500 for married couples and \$32,300 for single individuals.

Local-funded "Circuit Breaker Match" program: Provides additional property tax reduction from a minimum of \$300 to a maximum of \$1,875 to homeowners who are age 65 and older and the totally disabled. The qualifying income limit for the local program in 2010 is \$49,500 for both married couples and single individuals. The income limits for both the state and local programs are adjusted annually for inflation.

There are three tax property tax exemption programs in Southbury for veterans and their surviving spouses. Qualified veterans may receive benefits from all three programs. Two programs are mandated by the State and are not subject to local modification. The third is a local option which allows the town to adjust the qualifying income and the level of tax exemption within State-set limits.

Veterans' Tax Exemption Programs in Southbury

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For additional information contact the Assessors Office at (203) 262-0674.

Additional Information

Homecare

The CT Home Care Program for Elders may help you or a family member continue living at home as an alternative to nursing home placement. The program is state and federally funded and administered by the State Department of Social Services, Alternate Care Unit. Under the program, a review is made of each applicant's needs. The purpose of the review is to determine if you can remain in your home with the help of homecare services. If you qualify, the Home Care Program for Elders can offer you help with daily living activities such as cleaning, cooking and other chores. The Home Care Program for Elders can also help you with some medical needs by providing visiting nurses or home health aides. For more information or to begin the screening process contact: Toll Free Number: 1-800-445-5394.

The Veterans Administration offers Aid and Attendance as part of an "Improved Pension" Benefit that is largely unknown. This Improved Pension allows for Veterans and surviving spouses who require the regular attendance of another person to assist in eating, bathing, dressing, undressing, medication dosing, or taking care of the needs of nature to receive additional monetary benefits. It also includes individuals who are blind or a patient in a nursing home because of mental or physical incapacity. Assisted care in an Assisted Living facility also qualifies.

This most important benefit is overlooked by many families with Veterans or surviving spouses who need additional monies to help care for ailing parents or loved ones. This is a "Pension Benefit" and IS NOT dependent upon service-related injuries for compensation. Aid and Attendance can help pay

for care in the home, Nursing Home or Assisted Living facility. A Veteran is eligible for up to \$1,632 per month, while a surviving spouse is eligible for up to \$1,055 per month. A couple is eligible for up to \$1,949 per month*.

Housing

Subsidized Rental Communities

- Southbury - Grace Meadows, 380 North Poverty Road, Southbury, CT 06488
203-264-3228
- Newtown - Nunnawauk Meadows, 3 Nunnawauk Road, Newtown, CT 06470
203-426-5000, TTD Users 1-800-842-9710
- Oxford - Crestview Ridge, 100 Stakum Circle, Oxford, Ct 06478
203-881-9555
- Woodbury - Spruce Bank, 823 Main St S., Woodbury, CT 06798
203-266-4628

Assisted Living

- The Hearth at Southbury, Enriched & Assisted Living • Alzheimer's and Dementia Care
655 Main Street South, Southbury, CT 06488 (203) 437-6819 • FAX (203) 267-7125
- Pomperaug Woods, Southbury Connecticut Lifecare Retirement Community
80 Heritage Road, Southbury, CT 06488 (203) 262-6555
- The Watermark at East Hill, Independent Living & Assisted Living
611 East Hill Road, Southbury, CT 06488 (203) 262-6868

Skilled Nursing Facilities;

Lutheran Home of Southbury - 990 Main Street, N., Southbury, CT 06488 (203) 264-9135

River Glen Health Care - 162 South Britain Road, Southbury, CT 06488 (203) 264-9600

The Watermark at East Hill - 611 East Hill Road, Southbury, CT 06488, (203) 262-6868

Legal Information

Free counseling and representation on many Elder Law issues is available to those persons age 60 and older who may not be able to afford to hire a private attorney for a civil matter. Priority for representation is given the four areas below:

Access to health care

Federal and state benefit and support programs

Rights of nursing home residents

Legal issues which are the direct result of a client's poverty

- Connecticut Legal Services, Inc. (<http://connlegalservices.org/>):
Western Connecticut:
Central Avenue
CT 06702
756-8074

85
Waterbury,
800-413-7797 or 203-

Connecticut Legal Services, Inc. also offers seniors with consumer problems free legal assistance through its Consumer Law Project for Elders (CLPE) hotline. The Hotline will provide free advice, representation and referrals to seniors 60 and older with such consumer problems as credit card debt, medical debt, abusive and harassing collection practices and identity theft.

Seniors with other consumer problems can also call the hotline
Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM 800-296-1467

Monday –

Protective Services

This State of Connecticut program is designed to safeguard people 60 years and older from physical, mental and emotional abuse, neglect and abandonment and/or financial abuse and exploitation. Staff may help the person remain in the living situation he or she prefers, safeguard legal rights, prevent bodily injury or harm, determine service needs and then mobilize resources to provide necessary services. To report cases of suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation, call the toll-free referral line at 1-888-385-4225. Your identity may remain anonymous if you wish.

Veteran's Services

The CT Department of Veterans' Affairs was established in 1987 with the Office of Advocacy and Assistance as a sub-division of the Department. The Office of Advocacy and Assistance, with offices and Service Officers in each of the six congressional districts, provides advice and assistance to the state's 339,000 veterans and their dependents in obtaining comprehensive rights, benefits and privileges to which they may be entitled under law.

Assistance is provided by accredited Veterans' Affairs Service Officers trained to provide a variety of services for eligible veterans and their dependents. They are certified to represent eligible veterans before the U.S Department of Veterans' Affairs and to act as formal representatives for such veterans needing assistance.

Southbury's Contact Person: Peter M. DiMaria, Veterans Service Officer

55 West Main Street, Suite 140, Waterbury, CT 06702
Phone: 203-805-6340, Fax: 203-805-6341
Office Hours: Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

State Soldiers', Sailors' and Marines' Fund

The purpose of the State Soldiers', Sailors' and Marines' Fund is to provide temporary financial assistance to meet, or help to meet, the health and maintenance needs of eligible applicants (veterans and their dependents who demonstrate a "need"). Funds may be used for food, clothing, medical or hospital care, or funeral expenses.

Eligibility Requirements: A veteran and his/her dependents must live in Connecticut at the time of application and while receiving aid; the veteran must have been honorably discharged from military service; and the applicant must have served a minimum of 90 days unless discharged for a service-connected disability as specified in the Connecticut General Statutes, Section 27-103.

Veterans Administration

Waterbury Office
182 Grand Street
Waterbury, CT 06702

Phone: (203) 596-4214