

# QUICK FACTS



## PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR SENIORS

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JULY 1, 2011 – JUNE 30, 2012

Government  
of Alberta ■

# Provincial Programs and Services

## Financial Assistance Programs

### Alberta Seniors Benefit

The Alberta Seniors Benefit (ASB) program is based on income and provides monthly benefits for eligible seniors. ASB provides provincial support, in addition to benefits provided by federal programs, including Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement.

### Special Needs Assistance for Seniors

Assists low-income seniors with one-time extraordinary personal expenses such as appliances, essential home repairs and some medical expenses.

In general, single seniors with an annual income of \$24,600 or less, and senior couples with a combined annual income of \$40,000 or less, may qualify for the Alberta Seniors Benefit and Special Needs Assistance programs.

### Education Property Tax Assistance for Seniors

Provides senior homeowners with a rebate to cover year-to-year increases in the education portion of their property tax.

### Dental Assistance for Seniors

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

### Optical Assistance for Seniors

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

The amount of coverage you receive is based on your annual income. In general, single seniors with an annual income of \$31,675 or less, and senior couples with a combined annual income of \$63,350 or less, may qualify for the Dental and Optical Assistance for Seniors programs.

## Questions? Contact

### Alberta Supports Contact Centre

Toll-free: 1-877-644-9992  
In Edmonton: 780-644-9992  
[www.seniors.alberta.ca](http://www.seniors.alberta.ca)

## Housing Programs

### Seniors Lodge Program

Provides grants to local management bodies that operate lodges (meals, laundry and housekeeping) for low-income seniors. A searchable list of management bodies responsible for subsidized seniors housing across Alberta is available on the Alberta Seniors and Community Supports website.

### Seniors Self-Contained Housing Program

Provides affordable apartments for lower-income seniors who cannot afford private-sector accommodation. Call **780-422-0122** for more information.

### Residential Access Modification Program (RAMP)

Provides grants for low to moderate-income Albertans who use wheelchairs to make permanent and temporary modifications that will increase the mobility into and within their personal, principal home. For more information, call the Alberta Supports Contact Centre.

## Housing Programs

### Rent Supplement Programs

Eligible Alberta households in need may apply for rent subsidies through local housing management bodies. To locate a housing management body, visit [www.housing.alberta.ca](http://www.housing.alberta.ca), or call **780-422-0122** for more information.

## Health

### Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL)

Helps Albertans with a long-term disability, chronic or terminal illness to maintain their independence by providing financial assistance to buy medical equipment and supplies. An assessment by a health care professional determines eligibility for equipment such as hearing aids, wheelchairs and oxygen.

Albertans pay a minimum of 25 per cent of the AADL benefit cost to a maximum of \$500 per individual or family per benefit year. This does not include any upgrade costs which are paid by the client.

For more information, call the Alberta Supports Contact Centre.

## Health

### Alberta Monitoring for Health Program

Assists eligible Albertans who have diabetes, including those who control their diabetes through diet and daily oral medication, in covering part of the cost of eligible diabetes management supplies. Call **1-800-267-7532** or **780-423-2634** in Edmonton for more information.

### Alberta Blue Cross Coverage for Seniors

Provides premium-free Blue Cross coverage for seniors, their spouses and eligible dependants, with up to \$25,000 in health-related benefits per person each year. Seventy per cent of prescription drug costs are covered, and seniors pay a maximum of \$25 per prescription or refill. Call **1-800-661-6995** for more information.

## For More Information

### Alberta Supports Contact Centre

Provides detailed information on a wide range of programs and services for Albertans.

Toll-free: **1-877-644-9992**

Edmonton: **780-644-9992**

### Seniors Programs and Services Information Guide

Provides detailed information about the programs, benefits and services available to seniors in Alberta, including information about income support, housing, health services, transportation and recreation. To obtain a copy, call the Alberta Supports Contact Centre or visit the website at **[www.seniors.alberta.ca](http://www.seniors.alberta.ca)**

## Did you know...

To connect toll-free in Alberta to any Alberta Government office, dial **310-0000** followed by the area code and phone number of the office you wish to reach.

# Provincial Programs and Services

## Other

### **Office of the Public Guardian**

Provides guardianship services for people who are unable to make personal, non-financial decisions for themselves. The office also provides information on personal directives and a secure, online personal directives registry. For more information, call toll-free **1-877-427-4525**.

### **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. Anyone who believes an adult in such a facility has been abused must report the abuse to the **Protection for Persons in Care reporting line** at **1-888-357-9339**. If the adult is in immediate danger, call the police.

### **Persons with Developmental Disabilities**

Provides supports that assist adults with developmental disabilities to be active in their communities. Call **780-427-2817** for more information.

### **Fraud Awareness and Elder Abuse**

Several resources and agencies are available to help seniors, caregivers and others faced with a potential abuse or fraud situation. Call the Alberta Supports Contact Centre or visit the website for more information.

### **Seniors Advisory Council for Alberta**

Responsible for gathering information and providing advice to government, through the Minister of Seniors and Community Supports, on matters relating to Alberta's senior citizens. Call **780-422-2321** for more information.

## Questions? Contact

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# Federal Programs and Services

## Canada Pension Plan

Paid monthly to those who have contributed to the Canada Pension Plan. Payments may begin as early as age 60. Survivor benefits are also available through this program.

## Financial Assistance Programs

### 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 Canadians aged 60 to 64 with a low-income and whose spouse or common-law partner receives the Guaranteed Income Supplement or has passed away.

## Housing Programs

### Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program

Provides a forgivable home repair or modification loan for persons with disabilities, homeowners and landlords.

### Emergency Repair Program

Helps low-income homeowners in rural areas with emergency repairs required to keep their home safe.

### Home Adaptation for Seniors Independence Program

Provides a forgivable loan for seniors 65 and older for minor home adaptations for age-related difficulties.

## Questions? Contact

### Government of Canada Income Programs

Toll-free: 1-800-277-9914  
[www.servicecanada.gc.ca](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca)

### Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

Toll-free: 1-877-499-7245  
[www.cmhc.gc.ca](http://www.cmhc.gc.ca)

## **Alberta Supports Contact Centre**

Toll-free: 1-877-644-9992

Edmonton: 780-644-9992

## **Alberta Seniors and Community Supports website**

An online resource for information on programs and services available to seniors in Alberta:

**[www.seniors.alberta.ca](http://www.seniors.alberta.ca)**

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ADMINSCS1255  
(2011/07)