

Polish American Social Services "PASS"

PolishAmericanSocialServices.com

Polish American Social Services "PASS" United Social Services Outreach Program

Main Office:

308 Walnut Street • Philadelphia, PA 19106

Open Monday to Friday • 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Telephone: (215) 923-1900

Outreach Services in and around the Philadelphia area

If you, a family member, or friend have a question concerning social services, call PASS and discuss your needs with a representative. All calls are CONFIDENTIAL, and PASS will either give you the information you need, handle your service directly, or refer you to the proper agency that can assist you.

Clients wishing to visit the main office at 308 Walnut Street, or one of the outreach sites, are asked to call in advance so that a Social Service Representative can tell you what documentation you will need to bring with you to process your request.

You can view an outline of several programs available to senior citizens and individuals of all ages on the PASS Internet site at PolishAmericanSocialServices.com.

For additional information, call PASS, Monday through Friday, between 9 A.M. and 4 P.M. at (215) 923-1900.

Medicare Update

Over the last few months there was a lot of advertising and hype over Medicare and especially Medicare Part D or the prescription drug part of Medicare. From November 15, 2009 to December 31, 2009, Medicare recipients or those entitled to Medicare were allowed to choose a new medical insurance plan or make changes to their existing plan. This enrollment period is now closed and different rules for making changes to Medicare insurances now apply. For more information, referral or assistance with Medicare issues, call PASS at (215) 923-1900.

1099 ALERT! KEEP THOSE 1099's!

In January 2010, Social Security, pensions, banks and other financial institutions sent out income statements called 1099's. These income statements are summaries of all the income someone would have received during 2009. THESE STATEMENTS ARE IMPORTANT TO APPLY FOR VARIOUS PROGRAMS AND SHOULD NOT BE THROWN AWAY!

Please make a folder at home and place all 1099's in it so when applying for a water discount, property tax/ rent rebate program or any other program, this information will be handy.

Holiday Visits and Older Adults

This past Holiday was busy and many of us had the opportunity to visit with family and friends, many of which are older adults. Maybe during a visit to a senior citizen you noticed a change in their health condition or living condition that was of concern to you. If this is the case, feel free to contact Polish American Social Services to discuss this situation to see if there are any services that may be helpful to the older adult.

There are many programs and services that are designed to help seniors face the challenges of aging as well as living independently for as long as possible. Call PASS at (215) 923-1900 for more information. All calls and questions are confidential.

LIHEAP AND CRISIS UPDATES ALERT - NEW INFORMATION!

The LIHEAP Program which opened on November 2nd and was scheduled to close on March 15, 2010 has been extended. Applications will now be accepted until April 2, 2010. Also the projected grant amount to each family has been recently increased. Those that have already received a grant can expect an additional grant to be sent to the same place as the first grant. Those that are approved in the future will also receive two separate payments: the initial grant and then the increase payment.

The CRISIS Program is officially opened. The Crisis program is for those who are out of oil or threatened with a utility shut off. Applications can now be done Monday through Friday at the main office at 1348 West Sedgely Avenue, on Tuesdays at the Boulevard District Office at 4109 Frankford Avenue or on Thursdays at the Elmwood District Office at 5740 Market Street. These offices are open from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM ONLY. For those who need a crisis grant and already received a LIHEAP approval, call the LIHEAP office at (215) 560-1583.

If you have questions about either program, call PASS at 215-923-1900.

2009 State of Pennsylvania Property Tax Rent Rebate Program

When will applications for the 2009 Property Tax Rent Rebate Program be available?

Applications will be mailed by the program to those who applied in previous years beginning in February. Applications should also be available to the general public in mid-February.

If it's 2010, why is the program called the 2009 Property Tax Rent Rebate Program?

This rebate program is a "look back" program. This means that to calculate a rebate, the program must look back at property taxes or rent the household paid out during 2009. Also to calculate the rebate, the program must look back at the income received during 2009 to calculate the amount of the rebate.

Who is eligible for a rebate?

There are many different individuals who may qualify for a rebate. They must fall into one of the categories below and meet certain income guidelines.

- A person or their spouse who is 65 years of age or older, or
- Widows or widowers 50 years of age or older, or
- Permanently DISABLED individuals 18 years of age or older.

What are the income guidelines and how much of a rebate is expected?

For Homeowners :		Income Range	Rebate Amount
\$ 0	-	\$8,000	\$650
\$8,001	-	\$15,000	\$500
\$15,001	-	\$18,000	\$300
\$18,001	-	\$35,000	\$250
For Renters:		Income Range	Rebate Amount
\$ 0	-	\$8,000	\$650
\$8,001	-	\$15,000	\$500

IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THAT YOU DO NOT COUNT ONE- HALF OF SOCIAL SECURITY, SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME AND RAILROAD RETIREMENT TIER 1 BENEFITS WHEN CALCULATING ELIGIBILITY INCOME.

For example, if your gross Social Security income for 2009 was \$20,000, the Property Tax Rent Rebate Program would count only \$10,000 toward eligibility requirements. All other income such as salary, IRA payouts, pensions, dividends or interest is counted at 100%.

Do I ever have to repay this rebate or will a lien be placed on the property?

No. Absolutely NOT! No Lien is placed on the property nor does the rebate have to be repaid. Furthermore the rebate is not considered as income for any other program.

Whom do I call if I have questions or how can I get an application?

For more information, to get an application, or to get help completing the application, call Polish American Social Services at (215) 923-1900.

For the 2009 Income Tax Season Consider the EARNED INCOME CREDIT and the CHILD TAX CREDIT

Working people who earn low or moderate incomes (approximately \$40,000) are urged to look into the **Earned Income Tax Credit (EIC)** and the **Child Tax Credit (CTC)** this tax season. In some instances these tax credits can be refunded to individuals even if they owe no income tax.

Take a moment to talk to your tax preparer about these credits and if you do not have the means to hire a preparer, there are places that will prepare your tax return free of charge.

It is important to note that **EIC and CTC refunds DO NOT count as income** when you apply for or renew benefits like food stamps, SSI, Medicaid, cash assistance and others.

To get more information about these tax credits, call **Polish American Social Services** at (215) 923-1900.

In recognition of a contribution from the

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For Polish American Social Services programs

For updated information, see PASS's website at:
PolishAmericanSocialServices.com

