

Lehigh County Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) is in place to provide families and individuals financial assistance for rent including: rent, rental arrears, utilities and home energy costs incurred, directly or indirectly, due to COVID-19.

An individual must be able to prove this financial loss with pay stubs, bank statement, unemployment award letters, etc.

The Lehigh County application can be found at <https://form.jotform.com/210596231926154>

Documentation from the tenant needed for Emergency Rental Assistance includes:

- Copy of ID or license
- Copy of current lease
- Unemployment letter if on unemployment
- Paystubs pre and post COVID
- Utility bill showing arrears
- Completed application

Documentation needed from the landlord:

- Completed landlord portion of the application
- Proof of ownership of property (deed, insurance, taxes, etc.)
- W9 form



A Catholic Charities staff member will contact the applicant upon receiving the application. All questions must be routed to Catholic Charities. Please call 610-541-2191 with questions about the program or the application process.

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Special points of interest:

- If you know someone who is interested in receiving this Enewsletter, please have them contact Kim at (610) 782-3096 or email kimberlymelusky@lehighcounty.org.
- Feel free to print or email this newsletter.

Folks in 1A Looking for a Vaccine Appointment

The Lehigh County Office of Aging and Adult Services is partnering with Lehigh Valley Health Network to schedule COVID-19 vaccinations for recipients in the 1A vaccine group. The office is currently seeking recipients in the 1A category who have not yet been scheduled for a vaccine to sign up for an appointment. A vaccination site at a community location will be selected once a list has been created.

To qualify for the 1A vaccination category, residents must be:

- 65 and over
- 16-64 with a medical condition defined by the CDC

(Cancer, Chronic Kidney Disease, COPD, Down Syndrome, Heart Condition, Immunocompromised State, Obesity, Severe Obesity, Pregnancy, Sickle Cell Disease, Smoking, Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus)

The Office of Aging and Adult Services is looking to fill appointment slots as soon as possible. Once a site has been scheduled, applicants on the list will receive a phone call from our agency with the location, date and time for their vaccine.

If you, or know someone who will qualify, please email contact information to Sue Whittaker at

susanwhittaker@lehighcounty.org

Please submit the following:

- Name
- Date of Birth
- Last 4 of SS#
- Contact Phone Number
- If they meet the criteria and are under 65, please note the medical condition defined by the CDC.

An additional list will be created for residents who fit in the 1A category and are homebound. Please indicate accessibility in your contact email in order to be placed on the appropriate list. For more information or questions, please contact the office of Aging and Adult Services at 610-782-3034.

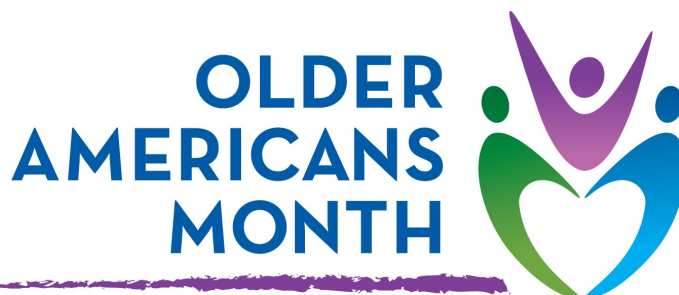
May is Older Americans Month

Every May, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) leads our nation's observance of Older Americans Month. This year's theme is **Communities of Strength**.

Older adults have built resilience and strength over their lives through successes, failures, joys, and difficulties. Their stories and contributions help to support and inspire others. We celebrate Older Americans Month with special emphasis on the power of connection and engagement in building strong communities.

Lehigh County Aging and Adult Services will be celebrating with its 21st Annual Unsung Hero event. This annual tradition celebrates older adults whose community has been enhanced through their active engagement, volunteerism, and service to others. We all

know these wonderful people are in our community. They are often the unsung heroes our communities cannot live without!



COMMUNITIES OF STRENGTH: MAY 2021

DO YOU HAVE MEDICARE?

Do you have questions about your coverage or current plan? Do you want to know if you are eligible to save money on your prescription drug costs and/or your Part B premium? The APPRISE Program can help!

What is APPRISE?

APPRISE is a free health insurance counseling program designed to help all Pennsylvanians with Medicare.

APPRISE counselors are specially trained staff and volunteers who can answer your questions and provide you with objective, easy-to-understand information about Medicare.

You may qualify for financial assistance programs!

APPRISE wants to make sure you and your friends who have Medicare know about the Extra Help and Medicare Savings Programs.

Extra Help

Can help lower your prescription drug co-payments and premium, and gives you extra times to switch your plan!

You may qualify if:

- If you are single and have total monthly income of less than \$1,630; and less than \$14,790 in resources
- If you are married and have a total monthly income of less than \$2,198; and less than \$29,520 in resources

*There are certain deductions taken for Extra Help. You may qualify even if you are above these limits.

Medicare Savings Programs

Can help you with the payment of your Part B premium!

You may qualify if:

- If you are single and have a total monthly income of less than \$1,469; and less than \$7,970 in resources
- If you are married and have a total monthly income of less than \$1,980; and less than \$11,960 in resources

*Medicare Savings Programs can possibly help with the payment of your Medicare Part A and Part B cost-sharing.

*There are certain deductions taken for Medicare Savings Programs. You may qualify even if you are above these limits.

How can the APPRISE Program help you?

APPRISE can help with:

- Medicare
- Medicare Prescription Drug Plans (Part D)
- Medicare Advantage Plans
- Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap)
- Plan Comparisons
- Medicaid
- Screening and applying for financial assistance programs
- Medicare Appeals
- Long-Term Care Insurance

Call today to get connected to the APPRISE Program in your area.

Lehigh 610-782-3200
Northampton 610-829-4540

APPRISE is a free service provided by the PA Department of Aging, and is funded in whole or part by grant number 2001PAMIAA-00 through the Administration for



Lehigh County is partnering with LANTA

Lehigh County Aging and Adult Services partnered with LANTA to provide transportation for older residents seeking travel accommodations to COVID-19 vaccination sites. The partnership came as a result of residents struggling to make their appointments without a reliable means of transportation. This program will be free to the public without any cost to the resident.

Lehigh County Aging and Adult Services will provide

LANTA the required funding to cover the shared ride cost for residents. Qualified residents need to be 65 years or older to register for the Shared Ride for Seniors Program through LANTA Customer Service in order to receive transportation.

Applications can be completed by calling 888-253-8333 Sunday through Saturday from 8:30am to 4:30pm.

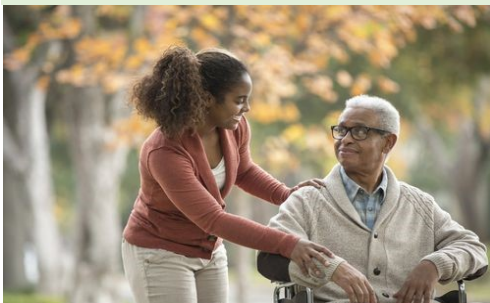


Lehigh County Aging & Adult Services

Caregiver Support Program

Please call for more information and ask for the Caregiver Support Program

610-782-3200



The Caregiver Support Program offers assistance and responds to the needs of caregivers, in order for them to provide the best possible care for their loved ones. Financial assistance is provided through a cost sharing approach and advice and counseling is offered to learn of the benefits available to them.

Examples of reimbursable items and services include: disposable undergarments, disposable gloves, therapeutic creams, nutritional supplements, adult day care services, insulin syringes, Texas catheters, private pay personal or respite care services, and monthly life alert. Some home modifications and assistive devices may be covered with approval by a care manager. Prescriptions or pharmaceutical items are not included.

Eligibility: Care receiver is age 60 or older or is under age 60 with a diagnosis of dementia. Household income is at or below \$66,196 for 2 people or \$83,448 for 3 people (scale based on 2021 income limits). Care receiver has a need for a caregiver and the program does not replace the role of a caregiver. Caregivers receive reimbursement for their out-of-pocket caregiving expenses.



Pennsylvania Link to Aging and Disability Resources, commonly referred to as PA Link, is a cross-age system network of partner agencies who collaborate to service individuals who need long term care services and supports. The “no wrong door” approach attempts to minimize duplication of efforts by both consumer and provider.

To join our network, or for additional information on one of the upcoming trainings or workshops, contact Kim Melusky at kimberlymelusky@lehighcounty.org.

Many additional events sponsored by our partners are also listed at www.lehighnorthamptonlink.org under upcoming events. Check often!

Please look through this newsletter for upcoming events or visit www.lehighnorthamptonlink.org.

PA Link in Lehigh & Northampton

Upcoming PA Link events in Lehigh and Northampton County...

PA Link will hold a webinar ***Coping with Change and Loss: Impacts of COVID-19*** via Zoom on April 8, 2021.

PA Link will hold a webinar ***Prescription Drug Abuse, Focusing on Opioids in Older Adults*** via Zoom on May 5, 2021.

Mark you calendar! The PA Link annual conference on ***Comprehensive Care—Now and Later***, has been cancelled for October 2021. The committee will plan a conference for October 27, 2022.



LEHIGH COUNTY AGING & ADULT SERVICES

Lehigh County Government Center
17 South 7th Street
Allentown, PA 18101

Phone: 610-782-3034
Fax: 610-820-2028
E-mail: agingandadult@lehighcounty.org

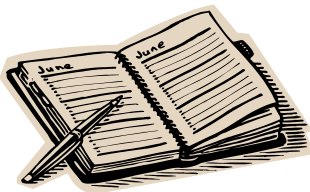


The Lehigh County Office of Aging and Adult Services is committed to supporting and empowering the well being of all adults of all ages, residing in Lehigh County. The office advocates for Lehigh County residents and provides a wide range of services and information to help adults to be well informed. Information and assistance is provided to enable individuals to remain active, healthy, productive and independent in their community.

For additional information, or to make a referral, please contact the Lehigh County Information and Referral Unit at (610) 782-3200.

We're on the web!

Dates to Remember



Mark your calendar!

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To volunteer as an **Apprise Counselor** or to receive more information about this volunteer opportunity, please call the agency at (610) 782-3034.

Upcoming senior fairs....

Check back in the next edition for upcoming health and community fairs.

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To become a PA Link partner, visit our website at www.lehighnorthamptonlink.org.