SENIORS: FREE HELP WITH HEAT, FOOD & MEDICARE

Heating help opened Mon., Nov. 2 · Medicare open enrollment ends Mon., Dec. 7 · SNAP: apply any time



Community Alert from Councilmember Michael Patterson

Drafted with help from Claude Opus 5.5 (AI). Info current as of Nov. 1, 2026, based on Gov. Hochul's Oct. 16, 2026 HEAP announcement, NY.gov HEAP pages, NYS Office for the Aging Medicare and SNAP guidance, NYS Dept. of Health 2026 Medicare Savings Program limits, NYS OTDA, and Monroe County Dept. of Human Services and Office for the Aging.

HEATING HELP (HEAP)

Regular HEAP opened Mon., Nov. 2

Apply: myBenefits.ny.gov, call (585) 753-6477, or visit 111 Westfall Rd.
Benefit: $400 for gas or electric heat, up to $990 for oil or propane, plus $35 if someone in the home is 60+.
On SNAP? You may get HEAP automatically.
Homeowners 60+: furnace repair or replacement, open since Oct. 1.
Emergency HEAP opens Jan. 4, 2027.

MEDICARE

Open enrollment: Oct. 15 – Dec. 7

Free HIICAP counseling (Monroe County, 60+): (585) 287-6413, or statewide 1-800-701-0501.
Medicare Savings Program: can pay your Part B premium ($202.90/month in 2026) and automatically enrolls you in Extra Help for prescriptions. 2026 income limits: up to $2,494/month (1 person) or $3,375 (couple).

FOOD (SNAP)

Help paying for groceries

Apply: myBenefits.ny.gov, or walk in at 111 Westfall Rd. or 691 St. Paul St. Questions: (585) 753-2740.
Age 60+? No gross income limit; eligibility is based on net income.
Under 65? Work rules may apply. Ask about exemptions.
Many SNAP households get HEAP automatically.

NOT SURE WHERE TO START?

Monroe County Office for the Aging
(585) 753-6280
NY Connects (Monroe County)
(585) 325-2800
Lifespan of Greater Rochester
(585) 244-8400 (HEAP help: ext. 102)

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM SCAMS

Help applying for benefits is **always free**. Never pay anyone to apply for you. Guard your Medicare number like your Social Security number: if someone calls asking for it, hang up and call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

Please share with a parent, grandparent or neighbor.

Sources: https://governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-15-million-new-yorkers-can-receive-hundreds-dollars-help-cover-home · https://events.trainingspace.ny.gov/heap/materials/2026/rest-of-state/forms/HEAP%20Desk%20Guide%20(LDSS-5005).pdf · https://www.ny.gov/services/apply-heating-assistance-heap · https://www.ny.gov/services/apply-heating-equipment-repair-or-replacement · https://otda.ny.gov/programs/HEAP/contacts/default.asp?county=29 · https://aging.ny.gov/news/medicare-open-enrollment-approaches-nysofa-reminds-older-adults-free-nys-medicare-counseling · https://healthweb-back.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/program/update/savingsprogram/medicaresavingsprogram.htm · https://healthweb-back.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/publications/docs/gis/26ma03.pdf · https://www.otda.ny.gov/programs/publications/5104.pdf · https://aging.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2026/02/snap-work-requirements-one-pager.pdf · https://www.monroecounty.gov/hs · https://www.monroecounty.gov/aging-programs