

What Colorado Does for SENIORS *

Since 2005 the General Assembly has passed legislation that:

- Provided advisors to help seniors make Medicare Part D choices
- Created a Senior Alert program to quickly locate Alzheimer's sufferers who have gone missing
- Created an Alzheimer's Coordinating Council to develop a statewide plan for serving Alzheimer's patients
- Created presumptive eligibility for Medicaid benefits

Property Taxes

- Seniors in many school districts may volunteer to work off property taxes
- Seniors may sign up with the County Treasurer for a property tax deferral until death or sale of the home, with taxes paid by the proceeds of the sale
- Colorado insures *reverse mortgages* to allow seniors to use the equity in their homes for any purpose, e.g. to pay taxes, to take a cruise, or just to help pay daily expenses
- Seniors are provided a \$600 Property Tax Deferral Program under Colorado Revised Statute

Quality of Life

- Seniors can purchase a Lifetime Colorado State Parks for \$10.00
- Seniors have reduced rates at many restaurants, entertainment programs and movies, and other venues.
- Seniors have reduced rates on most auto insurance policies.
- Most banks have free banking privileges and programs for seniors

Health Care

- Seniors over age 65 receive free Medicare Hospital Insurance policy and low rates for comprehensive Medicare Part B with no adverse selection.
- 85% of nursing home bills for seniors is covered by the state and federal government
- Seniors can deduct a portion of the cost for their long-term care policy from both federal and state taxes

State Services

- Seniors receive reduced rates on public transportation.
- Seniors receive free fishing licenses
- In the last three years the state has added \$6 million in additional state dollars annually to support Area Agencies on Aging to provide additional services.

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Also, there is \$14.2 million in the 2009-2010 budget designated to senior programs.

Colorado provides the following state offices to support seniors:

- [Office on Aging and Adult Services](#) (303) 866-2800
- [Office of State and Veterans Nursing Homes](#) (303) 866-4408
- [Long Term Care Benefit Division](#) (303) 894-7499
- [Nursing Facilities Section](#) (303) 894-7800
- [Drug, Medical Devices and Health Fraud Section](#) (303) 692-3620

Receipts and Transfers of General Fund Surplus [CRS 39-26-123]

85% of all net revenue collected under the provision of this article shall be credited to the old age pension fund created in section 1 of article XXIV of the State Constitution. (That has not been happening, but we are working to put more money into senior services)

The other 15% should be divided as follows:

- 10.355% into transportation
- The General Fund
- The Older Coloradans Cash Fund
- The Supplemental Old Age Pension Health and Medical Care Fund

In 2005 the money was being distributed in the following amounts:

- \$250 million Transportation
- \$300 million General Fund
- \$2 million Older Coloradans Fund
- \$750,000 Supplemental Old Age Pension Health & Medical Care Fund

** We passed a series of 3 bills that now increases the distribution to the Older Coloradans Fund to \$8 million and the distribution to the Supplemental Old Age Pension Health & Medical Care Fund to \$2.5 million. **

The General Assembly has stepped up to support our senior citizens and to protect the quality of life they expect and deserve.

Seniors are proud people. Seniors want the truth, not rhetoric. Seniors want to be reminded about what benefits they receive. Seniors want to pull their own weight and pay their fair share.