

# Senior BENEFITS PROGRAM



## Fact Sheet January 24, 2011

The Alaska Senior Benefits Payment Program was established on August 1, 2007 and, unless reauthorized, is set to end on June 30, 2011. It pays cash benefits to Alaskans who are age 65 or older and have low to moderate income. Cash payments are \$125, \$175, or \$250 each month depending on income.

### Recipients

- There were 10,093 Senior Benefits recipients as of December 2010. Of these, 5,534 were also Adult Public Assistance recipients.
- Number and percent of seniors at each payment level in December 2010.
  - ✓ \$250 - 1,071 (10.6%)
  - ✓ \$175 - 3,872 (38.4%)
  - ✓ \$125 - 5,150 (51.0%)
- Average age of recipients is 75. The maximum age is 105.

### Program Expenditures

- Currently, projected program benefit expenditures for FY 2011 are \$21.0 million. Projected benefit expenditures for FY 2012 are \$21.7 million.

### Eligibility and Payment

- Eligibility and payment amount is based on gross annual income (before any deductions are taken for taxes, Medicare premiums, etc.).

Senior Household Size	Senior Benefits Program Gross Annual Income Limit Effective 3/1/2011		
	\$250 monthly payment	\$175 monthly payment	\$125 monthly payment
Individual	\$10,200 (\$850 per month)	\$13,600 (\$1,134 per month)	\$23,800 (\$1,984 per month)
Married Couple	\$13,785 (\$1,149 per month)	\$18,380 (\$1,532 per month)	\$32,165 (\$2,680 per month)

- Income limits may change yearly along with Alaska's federal poverty level. The \$250, \$175, and \$125 monthly payments correspond to 75 percent, 100 percent, and 175 percent of the federal poverty level for Alaska, respectively.

- Assets, such as savings, are not counted for eligibility.
- Payments are not available to seniors living in the following institutions:
  - ✓ Prison or jail,
  - ✓ nursing home,
  - ✓ Alaska Pioneers' Home or Alaska Veterans' Home, or
  - ✓ Public or private institution for mental disease

Geographic Distribution by Census Area, December 2010

<b>Census Area</b>	<b>Number of Recipients</b>
Aleutians East	23
Aleutians West	14
Anchorage	3,636
Bethel	558
Bristol Bay	7
Denali	13
Dillingham	150
Fairbanks North Star	747
Haines	83
Juneau	338
Kenai Peninsula	934
Ketchikan Gateway	251
Kodiak	220
Lake and Peninsula	39
Matanuska-Susitna	1,250
Nome	238
North Slope	38
Northwest Arctic	159
Prince of Wales	185
Southeast Fairbanks	187
Sitka	98
Skagway/Hoonah/Angoon	68
Valdez/Cordova	171
Wade Hampton	255
Wrangell/Petersburg	149
Yakutat	15
Yukon/Koyukuk	259
Unidentified	8
Grand Total	10,093