



NYS Kinship Navigator

PUBLIC BENEFITS FOR KINSHIP FAMILIES TOOLS FOR LEARNING ELIGIBILITY

Many government programs provide assistance to:

- Kinship caregivers
- All families raising children
- The disabled
- The elderly
- Children without parents.

Many websites offer information and special tools to determine eligibility for federal and state assistance programs.

BENEFITS QUICKLINK

One site is specifically for kinship families. You can go to Benefits Quicklink, answer a series of questions and learn what benefits are available to you. It takes an estimated twenty minutes to complete the questionnaire.

Operated by AARP Foundation's Benefit Outreach, this program is a virtual one-stop shop for kinship caregivers. Grandparents and other kinship caregivers can find both state and federal public benefits for themselves and children in their care.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT BENEFITS QUICKLINK, PLEASE CALL THE NYS KINSHIP NAVIGATOR AT 877-454-6463.

Kinship Benefits

Benefits Quicklink provides information about eligibility, and how to find and apply for four benefits that are available to kinship families:

- TANF Grants (Public Assistance grants frequently called non-parent or child-only grants)
- Medicaid for children
- State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)
- Supplemental Security Income for children.

Older American Benefits

Benefits Quicklink also provides information about eligibility, and how to find and apply for many benefits that are available to older Americans:

- Medicare Savings Programs
- Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage
- Medicare Rx Extra Help
- State Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs (SPAP)
- Medicaid for Aged, Blind and Disabled
- Food Stamps Program
- Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)
- State Property Tax Relief/Rebates
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Telephone Assistance (Link-Up and Lifeline)

What Does Quicklink Do?

Benefits QuickLink-Self-Service (its full name) is a free website that provides three options:

- Public Benefits Screening for up to 15 of the most important state and federal public benefits for older Americans and families with children
- Private Program Screening for hundreds of free and low-cost medications offered by pharmaceutical companies, and
- Medicare Rx Extra Help on-line application tool that lets AARP track the number of people who sign up for the benefit.

How Does It Work?

- Go to [Benefits QuickLINK](#)
- Answer a short list of questions, and
- Find out what programs you are eligible for, and
- Get fact sheets, applications, and websites for the most important programs available where you live.

What You Will Need (for adults and/or children)

- State and zip code
- Date of birth
- Type of residence (house, apartment, or mobile home)
- Length of time in current residence
- Current income and assets from all sources for self, spouse, and others in the household
- Estimates of current expenses (mortgage/rent, utilities, out-of-pocket medical bills, expenses for caring for someone while the caregiver works or goes to school)
- Names of prescription medications (prescription bottles or health provider info is easiest).

OTHER SITES WITH INFORMATION ABOUT BENEFITS

- **Benefit Checklist (Brookdale Center on Aging)**
http://www.brookdale.org/pdf_docs/bcl_2007_comp.pdf

This site offers a list of benefits for older Americans. The list reviews several programs for residents of NYC, as well as New York State Residents outside of NYC. Included is information on type of program, benefits provided, out of pocket cost, and income eligibility requirements, as well as contact information to apply for benefits.

- **GovBenefits.gov is a partnership of Federal agencies with a shared vision - to provide improved, personalized access to government assistance programs**
<http://www.govbenefits.gov>

The site offers a screening tool to help the user find government benefits that they may be eligible to receive and then to provide information about how to apply for those programs. The site provides information and eligibility screening for both state and federal programs. The user can search for benefits using a questionnaire method, by keywords, by categories (such as “student” or “veteran”), or by State or Federal Agencies. This tool is similar to the AARP Foundation’s Benefits QUICKLINK program.

- **National Council on Aging “Benefit Check Up”**
<http://www.benefitscheckup.org/>

This site allows access to over 250 benefits programs across the United States for Americans over the age of 55. Applicants may choose to access benefits by state, and will receive information on each benefit that they select, including eligibility requirements and a printable form that may be filled out to apply for said benefit. It also includes a comprehensive benefits check up, which screens for over 1,300 benefits nationwide. Other benefits screening programs include prescription drug assistance, Medicaid Rx extra help, and disaster recovery programs. It will be helpful to have on hand your personal information, asset and income information for yourself and those in your household, as well as any prescriptions you may be taking. The comprehensive check takes about 20-30 minutes to complete. This program is similar in process to the AARP benefits QUICKLINK, but focuses on older Americans and not solely on Kinship caregivers.

Note that: Benefits QUICKLINK is powered by Benefits CheckUp, a service of the National Council on Aging.

A Program of Catholic Family Center

30 N. Clinton Ave ~ Rochester, NY 14604

(Phone) 877-4KinInfo (877-454-6463) ~ (Fax) 585-454-6286 www.nysnavigator.org

