

Polish American Social Services "PASS"

PolishAmericanSocialServices.com

Polish American Social Services "PASS" United Social Services Outreach Program

Main Office:

308 Walnut Street • Philadelphia, PA 19106

Open Monday to Friday • 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Telephone: (215) 923-1900

Outreach Services in and around the Philadelphia area

If you, a family member, or friend have a question concerning social services, call PASS and discuss your needs with a representative. All calls are CONFIDENTIAL and PASS will either give you the information you need, handle your service directly, or refer you to the proper agency that can assist you.

Clients wishing to visit the main office at 308 Walnut Street, or one of the outreach sites, are asked to call in advance so that a Social Service Representative can tell you what documentation you will need to bring with you to process your request.

You can view an outline of several programs available to senior citizens and individuals of all ages on the PASS Internet site at PolishAmericanSocialServices.com.

For additional information, call PASS, Monday through Friday, between 9 A.M. and 4 P.M. at (215) 923-1900.

Summer, 2007

The following is a list of programs and benefits being offered in the Philadelphia area. Please share this information with family, friends and neighbors.

Important Summer Notice

Remember to check in on senior citizens during hot summer days to make sure they are keeping cool. Seniors are affected differently by the heat and it can be very dangerous. During hot days, PCA has a heat emergency hotline at 215-765-9040!

Check Before You Travel

Recently, PASS has become aware of several instances where people have left the United States only to find they were not able to re-enter because of immigration and visa laws. People travel for many reasons such as caring for a sick family member abroad, visiting family or friends, or even going back to their country of origin to try to clear up immigration issues.

In today's climate of immigration review, boarder enforcement and terrorism, travel can be a risk as far as re-entering the United States if your immigration issues are not completely worked out.

Furthermore, as stated in previous articles, some people discover they are not U.S. citizens until they apply for a U.S. passport. This means that they arrived in the U.S. as children but their immigration status was never adjusted.

Also, U.S. citizens traveling to seemingly close places like the Caribbean, Mexico or Canada, will now need U.S. passports to travel. Driver's licenses or birth records will no longer suffice when re-entering the U.S.

Take the time to review your immigration status with an immigration attorney, before you leave the United States, just in case there is any possibility that an old immigration issue was not fully resolved or understood. You could very well be barred from re-entering the United States.

Utility Assistance

There are several programs available to help seniors with the costs of utilities. Check out the following programs:

Philadelphia Water Revenue Bureau offers a 25% discount on each water bill for those 65 and older. Maximum income is \$26,700.



LIHEAP - applications for heating season 2007-2008 may be sent out this year as early as August 27, 2007. If you receive such an application and have questions call PASS at (215) 923-1900.

PECO CAP - offers a discount on kilowatt hours, balance forgiveness and shut off prevention. Income limits for one person \$14,700 annually, \$30,000 for a family of four. Call CAP directly at 1-800-774-7040.

The Utility Emergency Services Fund (UESF) can help zero-out utility bills. For info call PASS at (215) 923-1900.



PolishAmericanSocialServices.com

2007 Programs & Benefits Check Up!

www.BenefitsCheckUp.com

For those who have access to a computer and the Internet, this web site has been created by the National Council on the Aging to allow seniors and their family and friends to learn about benefits available to them. After using this site, if you have further questions or need assistance, call PASS at (215) 923-1900.

Emergency Fund

"PASS" is a member of the Emergency Fund Coalition at PCA. Social Service representatives can assist with food, fuel, medication and other emergency needs. For information call PASS at (215) 923-1900.

English Language Courses

Anyone interested in improving their English Language ability can contact the Community Learning Center at (215) 426-7940, Nationalities Service Center (215) 893-8400 or the Mayor's Commission on Literacy (215) 686-5254.

Immigration News

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services reminds its customers that a new fee schedule is effective July 30, 2007. Most applications and petitions increased an average of 66%. For more information go to USCIS's website at www.uscis.gov/21stCenturyService or call PASS at 215-923-1900 for assistance.

Employment

Polish American Social Services is continuing its employment outreach program to Pennsylvania residents. For assistance in resume preparation or a job search, contact PASS at 215-923-1900 to schedule an appointment.

If your current place of employment has a job opening, contact PASS and provide a detailed job description and contact information.

Check out PASS's Employment Information link at PolishAmericanSocialServices.com.

Loans

If you are thinking about borrowing against your home for home improvements or for debt consolidation or need money, consider the following:



- 1) speak to a housing counseling agency for free advice before you sign any legal papers for a loan
- 2) consider loan options
- 3) consider REVERSE Mortgages.

For a list of housing counseling agencies or loan options or more information call PASS at (215) 923-1900.

Real Estate Taxes

The Real Estate Tax/Rent Rebate Program for year 2006 is now being administered in 2007. The program has been extended till December 31, 2007. New applications are available. Homeowners can get back as much as \$650 on last year's real estate taxes while renters can get back up to \$500. The income limit is \$35,000 annually for homeowners and \$15,000 for renters to qualify.



It is important to know that only half of your Social Security or SSI counts toward the income guideline. Age requirements are 65 or older, living with a spouse that is 65 or older, widow or widower between the ages of 50 to 64 or permanently disabled between the ages of 18 and 64. For more information call PASS at (215) 923-1900.

Rent Assistance

TURN - Tenant Union Representative Network - Emergency Rental Assistance Program For help with security deposits and one month's back rent call 215-940-3900.

Real Estate Tax/Rent Rebate Program. Call PASS at (215) 923-1900.