



### **What is BenefitsCheckUp?**

BenefitsCheckUp is the most comprehensive online benefits screening service for older Americans. It enables older adults with modest incomes and resources, as well as persons with disabilities, to screen for benefit programs. Many people need help paying for prescription drugs, health care, utilities and other basic needs. Ironically, millions of older Americans — especially those with limited incomes — are eligible for, but not receiving, benefits from existing federal, state and local programs.

### **What kind of benefits programs?**

BenefitsCheckUp includes more than 2,000 public and private benefits programs from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. These programs include health care, prescription drug assistance, phone discounts, heating and energy assistance, legal services, housing assistance, property tax programs and nutrition programs.

Historically, nearly half of older Americans who are eligible for these needed programs never apply for them. For example, as many as 4.2 million seniors have not enrolled in the extra help available through Medicare prescription drug coverage and nearly half who qualify for supplemental security income (SSI) have not applied. The National Council on Aging (NCOA) estimates that 18,000 benefits go uncollected each year in the Lehigh Valley.

### **You said BenefitsCheckUp is online.**

#### **Do I need a computer to have a BenefitsCheckUp?**

No, you do not. A highly trained volunteer, a Benefits Ambassador, can assist you.

### **I'm concerned about sharing my information over the internet.**

Personal information that may identify you, such as your name, address, phone number, or social security number, is NEVER used on

the internet. BenefitsCheckUp is fast, free, and confidential.

### **What information do I need to share?**

You have to provide some basic information about monthly medical expenses, income and assets, along with your zip code. Your zip code helps identify the closest location where you can go to apply for the benefits. It is also good to include the names and dosages of your medications so BenefitsCheckUp can check if you may be eligible for any savings on your prescriptions. The more accurate you are answering the questions, the more accurate your BenefitsCheckUp report will be.

### **What happens if I want to apply for a benefit and I need some help with the application?**

A Benefits Ambassador can also assist you with the application process.

### **How do I get in touch with a Benefits Ambassador?**

Call **610-821-8722** to request a screening.

### **What happens when I call?**

You will be asked for your name, address, and phone number so we can schedule an appointment.

### **Who developed BenefitsCheckUp and why?**

The National Council on Aging, whose mission it is to improve the lives of older Americans, developed and maintains it. BenefitsCheckUp exists to help the millions of older Americans who are eligible for public and private benefits, but are not receiving them.

To find out if **YOU** qualify for any of these benefit programs, call **Robin at 610-821-8722** & ask for a **BenefitsCheckUp**.