

State of Alaska  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES**

**Frank H. Murkowski, Governor**

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## **SeniorCare through January 2006**

- Alaska's growing senior population is facing increased healthcare costs, including costly prescription drugs.
- Governor Murkowski's SeniorCare initiative enacted in 2004 provided an array of services for low-income seniors until full federal Medicare drug coverage became available Jan. 1, 2006. Murkowski proposed House Bill 106 this year to ensure that low income seniors would continue to receive needed assistance; HB106 was signed by Murkowski August 8, 2005.
- Since its implementation in April 2004, SeniorCare has offered eligible Alaska seniors (currently up to 135 percent of the poverty level) an option to receive \$120 per month cash assistance up to \$1,440 annually, or a \$1,600 annual prescription drug subsidy. Seniors between 135 percent and 150 percent of the poverty level receive a prescription drug subsidy of \$1,000 a year.
- As of March 2005, 6,831 seniors were receiving the SeniorCare cash benefit, and 58 were receiving the drug benefit.

## **SeniorCare program extended, expanded beginning January 2006**

- Continues the SeniorCare cash benefit through June 2007 for seniors with annual incomes below 135 percent of the federal poverty level.
  - Seniors with incomes below \$16,133 for individuals, or \$21,641 for couples will be eligible to receive \$120 monthly cash assistance.
  - These low-income seniors can qualify with liquid assets of up to \$6,000 for an individual and \$9,000 for a couple.
  - The Medicare prescription drug program will cover premiums and deductibles for these seniors.
- At the time the Medicare prescription drug benefit begins in January 2006, the SeniorCare drug benefit will cover premiums and deductibles for Medicare Part D, or comparable insurance, for Alaska seniors with annual incomes between 135 and 175 percent of the federal poverty level.
  - This subsidy would be available for seniors with incomes below \$20,913 for individuals or \$28,053 for couples.
  - These low-income seniors can qualify with liquid assets of up to \$50,000 for an individual and \$100,000 for a couple.
- More than one-fourth of Alaska seniors, about 11,000 out of 41,000, are estimated to be eligible in 2006 for SeniorCare under the new proposal.

The toll-free telephone number for the SeniorCare Senior Information Office is 1-800-478-6065 (Anchorage 907-269-3680) and the Web address is: [www.seniorcare.alaska.gov](http://www.seniorcare.alaska.gov).

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