



# Senior BENEFITS PROGRAM

## Information & Fact Sheet Updated January 2026

### Overview

The Alaska Senior Benefits Program pays monthly cash benefits to Alaskans who are age 65 or older and have low to moderate income. Payment levels depend on available state funding and how many people apply and qualify for the program. If the state budget cannot support the original amounts of \$125, \$175, and \$250, regulations allow for changes to be made for all eligible program participants. Funding reductions in this program must be applied to individuals in the highest income bracket first, then second, and then third.

Due to available funding, the following changes have been made:

- The monthly payment for individuals in the highest income bracket was reduced from \$125 to \$47 effective March 1, 2016.
- The monthly payment for individuals in the highest income bracket increased from \$47 to \$76 effective August 1, 2016.
- The monthly payment for individuals in the highest income bracket increased from \$76 to \$125 effective July 1, 2024.
- The monthly payment for individuals in the highest income bracket was reduced from \$125 to \$76 effective February 1, 2026.

### Eligibility and Payment:

- Eligibility and payment amount are based on gross annual income (before any deductions are taken for taxes, Medicare premiums, etc.)
- Assets, such as savings, are not counted
- 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
- Payments are not available to seniors living in the following institutions:
  - ✓ Prison or jail
  - ✓ Alaska Pioneers' Home or Alaska Veterans' Home
  - ✓ A nursing home
  - ✓ Public or private institution for mental disease

### Senior Benefits Program Gross Annual Income Limit Effective 2/1/2026

The payment amount for the highest income bracket changed February 1, 2026, due to funding.

Senior Household Size	\$250 monthly payment	\$175 monthly payment	\$76 monthly payment
Individual	\$14,663 (\$1,222 per month)	\$19,550 (\$1,630 per month)	\$34,213 (\$2,852 per month)
Married Couple	\$19,823 (\$1,652 per month)	\$26,430 (\$2,203 per month)	\$46, 253 (\$3,855 per month)

**Senior Benefits Program Gross Annual Income Limit**  
**Effective 4/1/2025**

The income limit changed on April 1, 2025, due to a change in the Federal Poverty Limit.

<b>Senior Household Size</b>	<b>\$250 monthly payment</b>	<b>\$175 monthly payment</b>	<b>\$125 monthly payment</b>
Individual	\$14,663 (\$1,222 per month)	\$19,550 (\$1,630 per month)	\$34,213 (\$2,852 per month)
Married Couple	\$19,823 (\$1,652 per month)	\$26,430 (\$2,203 per month)	\$46,253 (\$3,855 per month)

**Senior Benefits Program Gross Annual Income Limit**  
**Effective 7/1/2024**

The payment amount for the highest income bracket changed on July 1, 2024, due to funding.

<b>Senior Household Size</b>	<b>\$250 monthly payment</b>	<b>\$175 monthly payment</b>	<b>\$125 monthly payment</b>
Individual	\$14,108 (\$1,176 per month)	\$18,810 (\$1,568 per month)	\$32,918 (\$2,744 per month)
Married Couple	\$19,155 (\$1,597 per month)	\$25,540 (\$2,129 per month)	\$44,695 (\$3,725 per month)

**Senior Benefits Program Gross Annual Income Limit**  
**Effective 4/1/2024**

The income limit changed on April 1, 2024, due to a change in the Federal Poverty Limit.

<b>Senior Household Size</b>	<b>\$250 monthly payment</b>	<b>\$175 monthly payment</b>	<b>\$76 monthly payment</b>
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**Senior Benefits Program Gross Annual Income Limit**  
**Effective 4/1/2023**

The income limit changed on April 1, 2023, due to a change in the Federal Poverty Limit.

<b>Senior Household Size</b>	<b>\$250 monthly payment</b>	<b>\$175 monthly payment</b>	<b>\$76 monthly payment</b>
Individual	\$13,658 (\$1,139 per month)	\$18,210 (\$1,518 per month)	\$31,868 (\$2,656 per month)
Married Couple	\$18,480 (\$1,540 per month)	\$24,640 (\$2,054 per month)	\$43,120 (\$3,594 per month)

### Senior Benefits recipients as of December 2025:

- 10,915 recipients. Number and percent of seniors at each payment level:
 

✓ \$250 – 2,206 (20.2%)	✓ \$175 – 5,147 (47.2%)	✓ \$125 – 3,562 (32.6%)
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- As of December 2025, the average age of recipients is 73 and the maximum age is 109
- The number of Senior Benefits cases in December of each year:
 

✓ 2025 – 10,915	✓ 2023 – 10,263	✓ 2021 – 11,533
✓ 2024 – 11,249	✓ 2022 – 8,988	✓ 2020 – 10,173

### Recipients statewide as of December 2024:

Census Area	Number of Recipients	Census Area	Number of Recipients
Aleutians East	12	Kodiak	176
Aleutians West	28	Kusilvak	167
Anchorage	4,043	Lake and Peninsula	23
Bethel	481	Mat-Su	1,749
Bristol Bay	4	Nome	172
Chugach	77	North Slope	11
Copper River	63	NW Arctic	84
Denali	11	Petersburg	58
Dillingham	89	Prince of Wales	143
Fairbanks N Star	902	SE Fairbanks	173
Haines	74	Sitka	85
Hoonah-Angoon	80	Skagway	2
Juneau	361	Wrangell	63
Kenai	1,337	Yakutat	17
Ketchikan Gateway	273	Yukon / Koyukuk	157
		GRAND TOTAL	10,915

### History of the Senior Benefits Program:

1972 - 2003	<b>Alaska Longevity Bonus Program.</b> Established in 1972. Alaska residents became eligible at age 65. \$250/month was issued to seniors who applied before 1994, \$200 to those applying in 1994, \$150 to those applying in 1995, and \$100 to those applying in 1996. Payments were not available to seniors who applied after 1996. The program was subsequently defunded in 2003, and final benefits were issued for the month of August 2003.
2003 - 2004	<b>Senior Assistance Program.</b> Beginning September 2003, the Governor's office used its executive authority to establish the needs-based Senior Assistance program in response to the needs of low-income Alaskans aged 65 and older who were financially impacted by the elimination of the Alaska Longevity Bonus. Payments were limited to \$120/month. The program ended in March 2004.
2004 - 2007	<b>SeniorCare Program.</b> Beginning April 2004, the SeniorCare Program was established to replace the former Senior Assistance Program. The new program was expanded to include a prescription drug benefit. Low-income seniors that passed the program's income and resource limits could choose to receive either a \$120/month payment or a prescription drug benefit. The program ended in July 2007.
2007 - Present	<b>Senior Benefits Program.</b> Beginning August 2007, the Senior Benefits Program was established to replace the SeniorCare Program. Provides three payment levels based on the senior's gross annual income. Income limits are tied to the Federal Poverty Guidelines for Alaska and change each year as the poverty level changes. There is no asset test.