

December 10, 2014

AIP Affordability subcommittee meeting minutes

Barbara Berkovich and I met at Town Hall from 10:00-11:15. We brainstormed ideas and areas of possible cost saving opportunities for those aging in place. In addition we reviewed the comments shared on the survey and included those that applied. Although some of these ideas may not be possible or legal we felt all ideas should be listed for determination.

1. Tax relief. Whether reduced or capped property taxes, income taxes or local taxes on fees or services.
2. Heating oil savings. Town or state bulk purchase program allowing seniors to purchase heating fuel at a reduced cost.
3. Energy savings account. Possibility that those using alternative energy resources such as solar and wind to give their credits to fellow senior citizens to help offset their costs.
4. Circuit breaker program. Be sure folks are aware and taking advantage of it.
5. Eliminate late fees at library.
6. Provide certain amount of trash bags free to seniors to help offset this pay-for-service cost.
7. Provide more affordable housing for seniors.
8. Provide tax credit for those who might be eligible for housing but choose to stay in their home.
9. Provide multi-generational household credit off property taxes.
10. New construction incentives for developers to build senior housing.
11. Provide time-dollar volunteer programs for seniors.

Barbara also shared some research she has done regarding other State initiatives. Specifically:

1. Kiplinger State-by-State guide to taxes on retirees from September 2014.
2. OLR Research Report on Caps on property tax payments for elderly homeowners from December 9, 2003.
3. AARP Public Policy Institute report about using experimental CPI-E for older Americans.

Our next subcommittee meeting is set for January 10, 2015.

Respectfully,

Teri Maloney-Kelly