



“I wanted you to know about these programs that may help you save money this year. As always, don’t hesitate to call my office with any questions or concerns.”

–Assemblymember Didi Barrett

For information on programs for seniors, families, and veterans, or to find when I will be at a diner near you, please visit my website at assembly.state.ny.us/mem/didi-barrett.

Look inside for tips from Assemblymember Didi Barrett on how you can save money

Helpful tips from



Assemblymember Didi Barrett

— Assemblymember Didi Barrett —

Keeping you informed

A tax credit for caregivers

Tax relief is available for caregivers through the Child and Dependent Care Credit, a tax credit based on a sliding income scale for working parents who pay for child care or those who live with a spouse or dependent who is physically or mentally incapable of self care.

For more information on the Child and Dependent Care Credit, visit: [irs.gov](https://www.irs.gov) or call 845-451-7101.



Prescription drug assistance

The Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage Program (EPIC) is New York State's prescription plan for seniors. It provides copayment assistance for Medicare Part D-covered prescription drugs after any Part D deductible is met. EPIC also covers many Medicare Part D-excluded drugs.

New York State residents aged 65 and older who are not receiving full Medicaid benefits and whose income is not higher than \$75,000 if single or \$100,000 if married, are eligible.

Call 1-800-332-3742 (TTY 1-800-290-9138) for more information or an application.

Property tax relief

Most think Enhanced STAR and the Senior Citizens' Exemption are synonymous, but they're not. The Enhanced STAR program allows home-owning seniors to receive significant exemptions on the taxable value of their homes, resulting in school tax savings. The Senior Citizens' Exemption could not only reduce your school taxes, but also your county and town taxes. Age eligibility requirements vary by town. Call your town assessor to find out when you'll qualify.

For more information on the Enhanced STAR program, visit: tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/index.htm

For more information on the Senior Citizens' Exemption, visit: tax.ny.gov/pit/property/exemption/seniorexempt.htm

Free tax preparation

The AARP Tax-Aide program in conjunction with the IRS and the Hudson Valley CASH Coalition will be offering a free tax-preparation service for low- to moderate-income taxpayers, with special attention to those aged 60+.

You do not need to be a member of AARP.

Dial 1-800-899-1479 for site locations, hours and appointments.

For more information, please visit: aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact

Assemblymember Didi Barrett

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Important Phone Numbers from Assemblymember Didi Barrett

Emergencies

Emergency Fire, Police, EMS 911
New York State Police 518-851-2001
National Grid Emergency Line 800-892-2345
Columbia County Sheriff..... 518-828-0601

Services & Hotlines

EPIC Helpline 800-332-3742
Medicaid Helpline 800-541-2831
Office for the Aging Hotline 800-342-9871
Utility Bill Problems 800-342-3377
"Do Not Call" Telemarketing Registry 888-382-1222
Mid-Hudson Library 845-471-6060
NYS Smokers' Quitline..... 1-866-697-8487
Common Ground Mediation 518-943-0523
Columbia County Department of
Veterans Services..... 518-828-3610

County Numbers

Health Department 518-828-3358
County Clerk..... 518-828-3339
Board of Elections 518-828-3115
Office for the Aging 518-828-4258
Columbia Memorial Hospital 518-828-7601
Motor Vehicle Department..... 518-828-3350

State Assistance

Attorney General Consumer Helpline..... 800-771-7755
New York State Office of Victim Services 800-247-8035
Department of Taxation & Finance 518-457-5181

Federal Assistance

Senator Charles E. Schumer 518-431-4070
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand 518-431-0120
Social Security 800-772-1213
Postal Service..... 800-275-8777