

THINGS TO KNOW WHEN CHOOSING A SUPPLIER & STANDARD SERVICE

- You are not required to switch to a licensed supplier
- Switching to a supplier is easy and happens on your meter reading date
- Suppliers can increase variable rates up to 25% at one time without notifying you
- Residential early termination fees are capped at \$50
- Eversource must return residential customers to Standard Service Generation within 72 hours of a request
- Your electric bill is divided into two parts: delivery and generation. Delivery rates are fully regulated. For generations, you can remain with Eversource Standard Service rates or choose a licensed supplier.
- Standard Service is the generation option provided by Eversource.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

General Assistance - 2-1-1

Department of Social Services - 855-626-6632

Tax Department - 800-382-9463

Consumer Protection - 800-842-2649

Department of Veterans' Affairs - 866-928-8387

Office of the Healthcare Advocate - 866-466-4446

Medicare - 800-633-4227

Center for Medicare Advocacy - 800-262-4414

Connecticut Insurance Department - 800-203-3447

CT Fair Housing Center - 860-247-4400

Statewide Legal Services of CT - 860-344-0380

STATE REPRESENTATIVE & DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER

MICHELLE L. COOK

REPRESENTING TORRINGTON | 65TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Capitol: 860-240-8500
www.housedems.ct.gov/Cook

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Thank you for your continued support. It is my honor to serve another term as your state representative. This report provides you with basic information on some of the ways state government can assist seniors. I hope you and your family find this information helpful.

As always, please do not hesitate to call my office if you have any questions or concerns regarding issues facing Torrington and the state of Connecticut.

My staff and I are eager to do what we can to help you get the information you need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle L. Cook".

Michelle L. Cook

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THE CONSUMER LAW PROJECT FOR ELDERS

The Consumer Law Project for Elders (a project of Connecticut Legal Services, Inc.) provides free legal assistance to Connecticut residents age 60 or over who have questions about consumer rights, debt or collection problems, receipt of bills for items never purchased, identity theft, bankruptcy, dispute of goods or services purchased and unfair and undisclosed loan terms. For more information, call 1-800-296-1467. Spanish-speaking staff is available.



LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE

Many long-term care policies will pay for at least some in-home care. Consult your insurance company or agent. For more information about getting Long-Term Care Insurance, contact the Connecticut Partnership for Long-Term Care at 1-800-547-3443.



CONNECTICUT HOME CARE PROGRAM FOR ELDERS (CHCPE)

This program is appropriate for low-to-moderate-income families caring at home for someone 65 or over, who would otherwise be at risk of nursing home placement. There are different levels of eligibility based on income and/or assets. For more information, and to receive an application or make a referral, call the Alternate Care Unit at CT's Department of Social Services 1-800-445-5394.



RENTERS' REBATE PROGRAM

If you are elderly or disabled, you may be eligible to participate in the Renters' Rebate Program provided your income does not exceed certain limits. Based on income and the amount of your rent and utility payments (excluding telephone), the rebate can be up to \$900 for married couples or \$700 for single persons. Depending on where you live, you may apply at the local social service agency or Assessor's Office between April 1st and October 1st. For more information, please call the Renters' Rebate Program Hotline at (860) 418-6377.



THE CHOICES PROGRAM

Connecticut's program for Health insurance assistance, Outreach, Information and referral, Counseling, Eligibility Screening is an information source for services available to individuals age 60 and older and those with disabilities. CHOICES provides help with Medicare and other related health insurance options. It also makes referrals to appropriate agencies in order to help individuals access needed services. Contact a CHOICES counselor at 1-800-994-9422 for assistance and help understanding the Medicare options available so that you can make an educated choice about your coverage.

KINSHIP FUND AND GRANDPARENTS AND RELATIVES RESPITE FUND

Under current law, the Kinship Fund and Grandparents and Relatives Respite Fund are available to people appointed guardians by the Probate Court, not just by the Superior Court as under prior law. The Probate Court administrator is currently responsible for administering the funds. If you or someone you know is a relative who is an appointed guardian of a child and does not receive foster care payments or subsidized guardianship benefits from the Department of Children and Families, you may apply for grants from these funds.

READY TO WORK PROGRAM

This program provides job skills training to low-income individuals age 55 and older in Connecticut. To qualify, you must be unemployed and have an annual family income that is not more than 125% of the federal poverty income guidelines (single/\$14,588 and family of three/\$24,738).

Participants are placed in temporary training assignments to gain on-the-job work experience and will work 20 hours a week at the training sites for which they will be paid minimum wage. The program is designed to help our older workforce learn new job skills, assist in resume development and the search for a job, increase opportunities to obtain jobs in the private sector and change stereotypes about older workers through public education and demonstrated success.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT READY TO WORK,
PLEASE CONTACT EDUCATION CONNECTION
355 GOSHEN ROAD LITCHFIELD, CT 06759 | (860) 567-0863**