

HELPING OUR SENIORS

There are several programs that may help you in meeting your needs. I hope you find this information useful.

CONNECTICUT HOME CARE PROGRAM FOR ELDERS

This program helps Connecticut seniors that are physically and financially struggling to meet their basic needs. For more information, or to start the application process, please call 1-800-445-5394.

MONEY FOLLOWS THE PERSON PROGRAM

Offers enhanced community services and support to people who have resided in nursing facilities for at least six months. Learn more by calling 1-800-842-1508.

MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAMS

There are a variety of beneficial programs that help you pay for your Medicare Part B premiums. Learn more by calling 1-800-842-1508.

STATE SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAM

For Connecticut seniors and disabled persons for the purpose of supplementing their monthly income. To see if you qualify, call 860-424-5250.

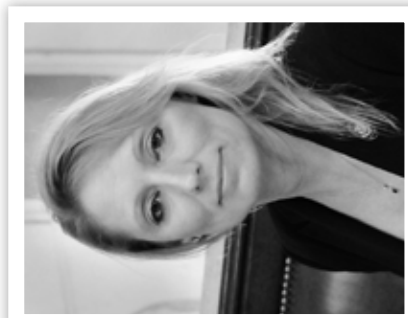
THE OFFICE OF THE HEALTHCARE ADVOCATE

If you are experiencing trouble with your healthcare coverage, call 866-466-4446.

**MANY OF THESE PROGRAMS
ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES.
LEARN MORE AT: WWW.CT.GOV/DSS**

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MICHELLE COOK
TORRINGTON | 65TH HOUSE DISTRICT



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER

**MICHELLE
COOK**

TORRINGTON
65TH HOUSE DISTRICT

CAPITOL UPDATE

Dear Neighbor,

I wanted to update you about what I and my colleagues in the legislature have been up to so far this year. While there are many important bills that will be brought up and voted on this year, there are several issues that are not specific to our session but are important to focus on.

One of these is jobs. Our economy is still struggling to come back from the recession and I know there are many Torrington residents looking to get back to work, and small businesses are looking for a way to subsidize hiring. Included in this mailer is some helpful information about tax credits for training and hiring new workers, especially for small businesses.

Also, I have been appointed to serve as Chair of the Special Education Working Group where we are looking at how special education services are provided to Connecticut students. There is more information with specifics included in this mailer.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office with any concerns or ideas about any issue that is important to you.

Sincerely,

Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Capitol: 800-842-8267
www.housedems.ct.gov/Cook



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER
MICHELLE COOK
TORRINGTON
65TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



GETTING SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS THE SERVICES THEY NEED

At the end of last year I was appointed to serve as one of the chairs of the Special Education Working Group of the Municipal Opportunities and Regional Entities (MORE) Commission. We will be holding meetings every few weeks to learn about what is happening with special education in the state of Connecticut, and what can be done better in the future. So far we have gotten an overview of how money is spent on special education, what transition services look like for students who will be graduating from high school, and looking at what we as a legislature can do policy-wise to make sure special education students receive proper attention and services. We will be holding hearings throughout the state during the summer months, so look for one to be held near or in Torrington.

VETERANS PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

Any Connecticut resident who serves or served in the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or Air Force and has a U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) disability rating of 100% is eligible for certain property tax exemptions. Currently, up to \$3,000 worth of a 100% disabled veteran's property is exempt from property tax. Such veterans whose household income, excluding veteran's disability payments, is no more than \$18,000 if single, or \$21,000 if married, may be eligible for an additional exemption. The municipality is responsible for approving the exemption.

HELP FOR SMALL BUSINESSES IS AVAILABLE

The General Assembly has made a commitment to help small businesses thrive, even in this tough economy.

Many business owners may not be aware of the state programs we have put together to aid local businesses. Administered through the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), these programs provide a direct investment in our local businesses. Two examples are the Economic and Manufacturing Assistance Act (MAA) and the Small Business Express Program.

If your business needs an influx of capital and meets the requirements, MAA provides low-interest loans and incentives. It is designed for projects that have significant economic development potential.



The legislature has also approved a number of important tax credits that help small businesses. If you want to open a business in an old industrial site, there is a dollar-for-dollar credit of up to 100% for an investment in an old industrial site. If you hire new employees, there is a tax credit. Local businesses can receive tax credits of \$500 per month for each new full-time job created through the Job Expansion Tax Credit. And if you hire a veteran, the credit can jump to \$900 per month. If you invest in new manufacturing machinery and equipment, there is a tax credit. Businesses can get a 10% tax credit if they invest in upgraded technology.

Other available tax credits include:

- Research and Development Tax Credits
- Fixed Capital Tax Credit
- Financial Services Tax Credit
- Angel Investor Tax Credit

More information on all of these programs is available through the Department of Economic and Community Development's Office of Small Business Affairs (SBA). You can reach SBA at 860-270-8215.



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