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# Public Assistance

by Margaret Pardue

Coordinator

The North Slope Borough Public Assistance Program does a number of services for the North Slope Residents. Each program requires verification of some kind from the applicant. Here are some kinds of verification that an agency may want from the client: Birth Certificate, Death Certificate, Marriage License, Rent Bill or Receipt, Electric or Fuel Bill, Paystub. It is very important that verification is received before the deadline date. If they are not received the application is denied and services are not received. A lot of people have been denied a service because a certain verification was not received at the Assistance Office. It is up to the client to submit these verifications to any public assistance agent or agency.

Here is an explanation of each program that Public Assistance takes care of:

A. AFDC, Aid for Dependent Children is a federal and state program. This program has three types of assistance.

1. Adult Included (AI) — Under AFDC a child and parent could receive public assistance if she or he is deprived of one parent.

2. Adult Not Included (ANI) — This program helps a child when she or he is deprived of both parents and lives with a close relative.

3. Adult Included with Incapacitated Parent is a new program which helps a household where both parents of the child live in the household, but one parent is incapacitated. This incapacitation or disability should prevent an adult from finding employment for at least six months to a year.

If an applicant is approved under any of these programs she or he is eligible for Medicaid.

B. Foodstamps — This program is a federal and state program. Income and resources of everyone in the household is considered for this application. Because of a federal ruling, three-wheelers, snowmachines and boats were considered resources in all of the United States. In 1980, snowmachines and boats in rural Alaska were deleted from the resource list. There is change being made where three-wheelers in rural Alaska will not be considered a resource. All of these vehicles are a necessity for subsistence hunting in rural Alaska.

C. Energy Assistance — This program helps people from November 1 to June 30 of each year. During that period there is not much employment and the cost of energy is high. The North Slope has been coded as E and F under the Energy Geographic Location Codes. Barrow is coded E/F since most of the homes are heated with natural gas. Code F is used for the rest of the villages, since fuel oil is the main source of energy.

D. GR/GRM is a general relief and general relief medical. This program is state supported. This program helps applicants that receive less than \$300 a month income. Under this program a client has to re-apply for every month that she or he wants to be eligible.

E. Medicaid — This program helps an applicant on medical expenses. If there is a service that cannot be served by a Health Aide or hospital, Medicaid can pay for the travel and any other expense that may incur.

F. Social Security — Whenever there is any business with Social Security we help the client by answering letters and calling the Fairbanks Office. When a person retires from work she or he is eligible for Social Security benefits. Social Security benefits are received for widows, widowers, and their survivors. Medicare is also under the Social Security Program. An individual can do this service by themselves by calling ZENITH 8888 or COLLECT 456-0241.

G. SSI is Supplemental Security Income. This program is under the Social Security Program. This program helps people who do not receive enough Social Security. It also helps disabled or blind people. Anyone that is eligible for SSI may also be eligible for the state programs called Old Age Assistance and Aid to Disabled and Blind.

H. Old Age Assistance — The state program helps people 65 and over. If a person does not receive enough Social Security and SSI she or he is eligible to apply for the program. An applicant eligible for this program is also eligible for Medicare.

I. Alaska Longevity Bonus — persons 65 and over are eligible for this.

J. Social Security Cards can be ordered through Public Assistance.

If you think that you are eligible for any of these programs please call or come and visit any of the following personnel of each village:

Barrow	Margaret Pardue or Elizabeth Patkotak	Greist Center Outreach Worker	852-5600  x308 or x317
Pt. Hope	Marie Casados	Com. Counselor	368-2234
Pt. Lay	Angela Harding	Com. Counselor	833-2527
Wainwright	Marie Patkotak	Com. Counselor	763-2814
Atkasuk	Mabel Smith or Donna Carr	Com. Counselor Fee Agent	633-6420
Nuiqsut	Rhoda Bennett or Virgie Kasak	Fee Agent	480-7620
Kaktovik and Anaktuvuk Pass	Margaret Pardue	Coordinator, Public Assistance, Greist Center, call collect	852-5600 X317

upset, headache, and reddened areas on the skin.

Symptoms appear 5-15 days after eating raw meat that is infected with the parasite.

The best way, to make sure the meat is safe to eat, is to cook it thoroughly to at least 137 degrees Fahrenheit.

If you have eaten raw or partially cooked meat and any of the above symptoms appear within about two weeks period of time,

you should check with personnel at the hospital or Health Clinic.

Eating raw fish can also result in your getting another type of parasite (worm) called Diphylllobothrium. This parasite absorbs vitamin B-12, which can lead to anemia, and severe infection may lead to obstruction (blockage) of the intestine resulting in abdominal (stomach area) discomfort and vomiting.

To avoid this parasite and one

called Anisakis (roundworm), either:

1. Cook the fish at 140 degrees Fahrenheit (or higher) for 5 minutes

or

2. Freeze the fish to -4 degrees F for at least 60 hours.

If you have any questions concerning these parasites, call Dr. Les Dalton at 852-2383, Mondays - Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.