



Neighborhood News

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Preparing for an EASY annual recertification

For our residents who receive a rental assistance subsidy, providing information about your income and assets is required each year. Proving medical expenses can possibly help to lower your rent amount.

Before your recertification appointment, please take some time to gather the following documents:

- Social Security, SSI, or SSD award letters (**please feel free to bring this to the office as soon as you receive it! We can keep a copy in your file for when the time comes for your recertification!**)
- Proof of pensions or any interest income
- Proof of any other regular income received (such as wages, alimony, etc.)

For your assets, please provide the following documents:

- Checking and/or savings account statements (at least one month, preferably three months)
- Information about any trust accounts, stocks/bonds, certificates of deposit (CODs)
- When gathering your documentation for your medical expenses, please keep the following in mind:
 - Providing copies of medical bills is NOT sufficient. You must submit proof of your payments for medical bills (often reflected on your account summary from your medical provider).
 - Pharmacies can easily provide a print-out showing what you've paid for prescriptions during the year.

When you're prepared for your annual recertification, the process is quick and easy. If you have any questions about what to prepare for your annual recertification, please call the Housing Services office at 607-687-0707.

**Would you like
free guidance
from a local
attorney about
your legal needs?**



Tioga Opportunities, Inc., in conjunction with the NYS Bar Association, is hosting an Elder Law Clinic on Friday, February 16th from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Appointments will be offered at the Countryside Community Center. Tioga County residents over the age of 60 can register for a free 30-minute legal consultation with a local attorney on a wide range of legal concerns. To schedule an appointment, call 607-687-4120, ext. 315 by 4:00 PM on Feb. 9th. *Appointments are limited, so please call today!*



Tioga Opportunities, Inc. | 1023 State Route 38, Owego, NY 13827



Call us at
607-687-0707
TDD 607-687-5905



Visit Our Website
www.tiogaopp.org



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Protect Yourself from Scams

Scams are everywhere and can cost victims thousands of dollars. Here are some ways to protect yourself and your loved ones!

- Do not give out personal information over the phone or to a stranger at your door. No reputable company will ask you to buy gift cards and send them in for payment of a debt or to wire funds!
- We recommend people screen their calls, particularly from unknown numbers. If you don't know the number, don't answer it! If it's important or an emergency, they will leave a message for you to call them back.
- Neither the Social Security Administration nor the IRS will call you. They send letters via the mail.
- Do not click on attachments in emails, Facebook messages, or texts from someone you don't know. It is also a good idea to question a Facebook message or text from someone you do know if it seems strange or asks you to click on something, as their account may have been hacked.
- If you receive an email or call from a bank, utility, creditor, etc.—don't call the number back that they provide. Look up the number yourself and call them.

Trust your gut—if you're on the phone and something seems suspicious or “off” to you, it very well could be a scam. Hang up, look up the number of who called you, call them back, and ask if they just called you.

There are thousands of scams, and it is impossible to list them all. These scammers are criminal experts at what they do and may have personal information on you, which can be terribly distressful and confusing. It is always better to be overly cautious than not. If you have questions about whether something is a scam, please call Tioga Opportunities, Inc. NY Connects at 607-687-4120 for help. You can also call the local police or the NYS Division of Consumer Protection at 1-800-697-1220.

Stay Safe on the Road this Winter



- ✓ **Check your tires:** Make sure your tires have good traction. Consider having snow tires on during the winter.
- ✓ **Brush off snow:** Remove snow from your windows, roof, and off the hood of the car before driving.
- ✓ **Increase distance:** Leaving more distance between you and the vehicle in front of you will give you more time to slow down if you lose control.
- ✓ **Slow down:** Reduce your speed when roads are icy or snowy.
- ✓ **Turn off cruise control:** Have full control of the acceleration when roads are icy or snowy.
- ✓ **Fuel up your tank:** The extra weight will help prevent sliding.
- ✓ **Emergency kit:** Keep a roadside emergency kit in your car.

Has your phone # or email address changed?

Please be sure to let the Housing Office know if your phone # or email address has changed. We use the One Call Now system to quickly let our Housing residents know critical information (via phone, email, and texts!), so it's important to let us know how to reach you. Please call the Housing Office at 607-687-0707 with any changes in your contact information.



After Hours Help Line for Tenants 1-800-233-3605

If you have an emergency, our after hours help line is here to assist you!

You can call the help line if you have concerns such as:

- No heat. •Electrical problem-ex. the elevator doesn't work. •Water problem – ex. a clogged toilet