

Advocate Tip Sheet #1

Special 3SquaresVT Rules for Seniors and People with Disabilities

❖ **Income**

Do not have to meet gross income test.

❖ **Resources**

If income is less than 185% of poverty, there is no resource limit. If income is greater than 185%, can have up to \$3000

❖ **Household Composition**

Can be a separate household if unable to purchase and prepare meals independently and gross income of others in the household is less than 165% of poverty

❖ **Medical Expense Deduction**

Can deduct monthly medical expenses over \$35, including prescriptions and insurance premiums, eyeglasses and hearing aids, as well as transportation, etc. If medical expenses are over \$35 but under \$173, household claims a standard deduction of \$138. If expenses are over \$173, household claims true cost of expenses minus \$35. Household must document \$35.01 in expenses to claim the standard. Household must document true cost of expenses if over \$173.

❖ **Dependent Care Deduction**

There is no cap on dependent care costs that can be deducted. This includes adult day care and transportation to and from care.

❖ **Shelter Deduction**

No maximum shelter deduction

❖ **Length of Certification Period**

Households in which all adults are seniors or have a disability may be certified for up to 24 months when income is stable.

❖ **Face-to-face interviews**

All interviews are conducted over the phone. Applicants have the right to a face-to-face interview if requested.

❖ **Cash Out**

Households in which everyone is 65 or older or get SSI receive their 3SquaresVT benefits deposited directly into a bank account. If they do not have a bank account, they receive cash on an EBT card (used like an ATM card).

