



State Senator CHRISTINE M.
TARTAGLIONE

Update to the Residents of the 2nd Senatorial District

WHERE THE JOBS ARE
Nursing is Philly's Hottest Career

Story page 5



Inside: **RECESSION SURVIVAL GUIDE**



A Message from SENATOR TARTAGLIONE 2nd Senatorial District

With unemployment hitting record highs during the current recession, more Philadelphians than ever need services and temporary assistance to make ends meet.

The loss of a job, reduction in hours, or temporary furlough has put increasing pressure on local families and communities.

Fortunately, any decline in income could make families eligible for state and federal programs that they didn't know about and for which they previously didn't qualify. At the same time, federal stimulus efforts have made available money for economic development projects, community housing and worker training.

That's why I put together this Recession Survival Guide. There are thousands now unemployed who never before needed assistance. Finding out what help is available, and what help they may qualify for, can be confusing and frustrating.

This guide contains easy contact information for programs and resources that can make an enormous difference for struggling families.

It's important to remember that our economy is rapidly changing and some traditional jobs are being replaced by new jobs that require more training and education. I have also included in this guide some information on the fastest growing jobs in the new economy to help workers make plans for a more stable and rewarding future. Expanded information on these subjects is available at my "Online Office" – www.senatortartaglione.com

Tina

Christine M. Tartaglione

◆ Unemployment Benefits

Last summer, Sen. Tartaglione pushed for Senate passage of House Bill 1770, extending unemployment compensation for more than 4,000 Philadelphia workers who were scheduled to lose their benefits. If you are currently collecting unemployment, or your benefits have run out, the state Department of Labor and Industry will notify you if you qualify for an extension.

New federal legislation provides an additional \$25 each week to individuals who are receiving state or federal unemployment benefits including regular UC, EUC, and state extended benefits. The additional payment will not be included in your regular benefit payment. The additional \$25 per week should be in your debit card or direct deposit account the Tuesday after your regular payment has been made.

TO SIGN UP FOR BENEFITS:

■ By Mail or Fax:

You may download a paper application online and mail or fax it to a UC Service Center.

■ By Phone:

Call the statewide unemployment compensation services toll-free number at **1-888-313-7284** (TTY services for the deaf and hard of hearing: **1-888-334-4046**), Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., and Sundays 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. If your Social Security number ends in an even number, call on Sunday, Tuesday or Thursday. If it ends in an odd number, call on Monday, Wednesday or Friday.

WHAT'S NEEDED TO FILE FOR BENEFITS:

To file an application for benefits, a worker will be asked to provide:

- Social Security number
- PennDOT photo ID
- alien registration number (for non-United States citizens)
- name and address of last employer (full or part-time)
- most recent pay stub

◆ Job Training

Pennsylvania's economy is changing. Traditional manufacturing jobs are disappearing with the emergence of new technology and equipment.

Thousands of workers need to be trained for the new economy and state and federal programs help with costs.

Pennsylvania has several job training programs to ensure that its workforce maintains its skills:

■ Customized Job Training

The third largest program in the nation, the Customized Job Training program responds to employer needs by providing grant funds for specialized job training for existing or newly hired employees.

■ Guaranteed Free Training Program

Through the Workforce and Economic Development Network of PA (WEDnetPA), employees of qualified companies can receive free job training for basic entry-level skills and advanced information technology skills.

■ Workforce Investment Act of 1998

A federal program that provides job training to eligible individuals for private and public sector employers. Use our funding and program finder to uncover more workforce development initiatives, or learn more about Pennsylvania's workforce.

To find out more about these programs, visit my Web site, or visit your local Careerlink office.



As federal stimulus dollars were allocated, Sen. Tartaglione held numerous meetings with labor and community groups to tell them how they can benefit from the jobs created by the federal spending.

■ PA CareerLink Nueva Esperanza

4261 North 5th St.
215-324-0746

■ PA CareerLink Philadelphia North

990 Spring Garden St.
215-560-5465

■ PA CareerLink Philadelphia Northeast

3210 Red Lion Road
215-281-1038

■ PA CareerLink Northwest

235 West Cheltenham Ave.
215-560-5187

Adult Health Insurance

AdultBasic, was designed to provide health insurance for adults meeting certain eligibility requirements and who do not have health insurance. It is administered by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department. Through contracts with insurance companies throughout the state, adultBasic offers basic benefits including preventative care, physician services, diagnosis and treatment of illness or injury, in-patient hospitalization, out-patient hospital services, emergency accident and medical care.

AdultBasic – Who is eligible:

- Between the ages of 19 and 65
- Do not have other health-care coverage (including Medicaid/Medicare)
- Been without health insurance for 90 days prior to enrollment, except if you or spouse lost health insurance coverage because of unemployment
- Family income is below certain income limits (see table on right)
- Resident of PA for at least 90 days prior to enrollment
- Have U.S. citizenship or permanent legal alien status



ELIGIBILITY INCOME LIMITS

| Family Size | Income Limits |
|-------------|--------------------|
| 1 | \$5,100 - \$21,660 |
| 2 | \$5,300 - \$29,140 |
| 3 | \$5,600 - \$36,620 |
| 4 | \$6,800 - \$44,100 |
| 5 | \$8,100 - \$51,580 |

CHIP

CHIP is short for the **Children's Health Insurance Program** – Pennsylvania's program to provide health insurance to all uninsured children and teens who are not eligible for or enrolled in Medical Assistance. There are a lot of reasons kids might not have health insurance – maybe their parents lost a job, don't have health insurance at work or maybe it just costs too much. Whatever the reason, CHIP may be able to help. All families need to do is apply today. Knowledgeable, courteous counselors are available at **1-800-986-KIDS**

(TTY/TDD 1-800-451-5886)

to assist you. A counselor will also help you sort through the information and can help you apply for CHIP and other social service programs.



1-800-GOBASIC



Sen. Tartaglione attended the ribbon-cutting for the Norris Square Civic Association's Hunter Homes project. The project features 48 new, reasonably priced homes within walking distance of Hunter Elementary School.

◆ Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program

The passage of the Taxpayer Relief Act is helping seniors and disabled residents remain in their homes and make ends meet through property tax relief. More seniors than ever before are getting the extra help they need through a major expansion of the state Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program.

The income eligibility level for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program has been raised from \$15,000 a year to \$35,000 a year, excluding half of Social Security income, and the maximum rebate was increased from \$500 to \$650 for homeowners.

Seniors who live in Philadelphia where local wage/income tax rates are very high, will not benefit from a local tax shift to lower taxes on top of the reduction offered by the state funded property tax relief. To ensure that seniors in these communities receive significant property tax relief, each senior household with income under \$30,000 has its property tax rebate increase by an additional 50 percent.

Claimants or spouses 65 years of age or older; widows or widowers 50 years of age or older; and the permanently disabled 18 years of age or older may qualify for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program.

**For more information call
1-888-222-9190.**

◆ Home Heating Assistance

The Pennsylvania Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps low income people pay their heating bills through home heating energy assistance grants and crisis grants. You need not have an unpaid bill to receive this assistance. You can receive this money without being in the Cash Assistance program – a family of four with an annual income of up to \$33,075 can qualify. No lien is placed on your property if you receive this help.

Opening dates for the LIHEAP program are: **Cash: Now through APRIL 2, 2010. Crisis: Now through APRIL 2, 2010.** The Department of Public Welfare may extend or shorten the program depending upon the availability of federal funds.

How to Apply:

The fastest way to apply or to check on an existing application is through **COMPASS** at www.compass.state.pa.us the online resource for cash assistance, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, help with child care, health care coverage, home heating assistance (LIHEAP), school meals, SelectPlan for Women and long-term living services.

For more information, please contact your local county assistance office (listed below) or contact the **LIHEAP hotline at 1-866-857-7095**, Monday through Friday (individuals with hearing impairments, call the TDD number: 1-800-451-5886).

Additional Low Income Energy Programs:

Visit the Utility Emergency Services Fund (UESF) • www.uesfacts.org or call **(215) 972-5170** for information on utility bill assistance programs.

■ PHILADELPHIA COUNTY ASSISTANCE OFFICES

Philadelphia State Office Building

1400 Spring Garden Street
Philadelphia, PA 19130-4088 • 215-560-7226

Boulevard District

4109 Frankford Ave. • Philadelphia, PA 19124-4508 • 215-560-6500

Unity District

4111 Frankford Ave. • Philadelphia, PA 19124-4508 • 215-560-6400



Sen. Tartaglione's Senior Expos bring together representatives of government and business to let seniors know about their choices in everything from retirement living to prescription drugs.

◆ Prescription Drugs

PACE AND PACENET are programs that help seniors afford prescription drugs.

PACE – Who is eligible:

you must be 65 years of age or older, a Pennsylvania resident for at least 90 days prior to the date of application, and you cannot be enrolled in the Department of Public Welfare's Medicaid prescription benefit. For a single person, your total income must be \$14,500 or less. For a married couple, your combined total income must be \$17,700 or less.

PACENET – Who is eligible:

To be eligible for PACENET, you must be 65 years of age or older, a Pennsylvania resident for at least 90 days prior to the date of application, and you cannot be enrolled in the Department of Public Welfare's Medicaid prescription benefit. A single person's total income can be between \$14,500 and \$23,500. A couple's combined total income can be between \$17,700 and \$31,500.

The PACE/PACENET Hotline is **1-800-225-7223**.

Buoniconti Fund Presents 'Humanitarian Award'



Caren Jones, co-director of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Buoniconti Fund to Cure Paralysis, presents Sen. Tartaglione with the inaugural "Humanitarian Award."

In November, Sen. Tartaglione was given the inaugural "Humanitarian Award" by the Philadelphia Chapter of the Buoniconti Fund to Cure Paralysis.

"This is the first time that we have chosen to honor someone at our event and no one is a better candidate than Senator Tartaglione," said Sally Woolf, founder of the Philadelphia Chapter. "We are so proud of her accomplishments and she is a tremendous inspiration to everyone in the Philadelphia Chapter."

Forced Overtime Ban In Effect

Sen. Tartaglione's bill to ban forced overtime for health-care workers took effect July 1. Employees covered under Act 102 are individuals involved in direct patient care or clinical care services who receive an hourly wage or who are classified as nonsupervisory employees for collective bargaining purposes. The bill does not prevent an employee from working more than an eight-hour shift if this shift is agreed to and regularly scheduled. For questions about the law or to file a complaint, contact the Department of Labor and Industry's Bureau of Labor Law Compliance, 110 North 8th St., Suite 203, Phila., PA 19130-4064, or call 215-560-1858.

◆ Nursing is Philly's Hottest Career

Nurses continue to be in high demand in the Philadelphia region according to Pennsylvania Workforce Development officials. The state Department of Labor and Industry tracks the demand for certain jobs in order to target training efforts and funding.

The department estimates that 780 new nursing jobs will be available in Philadelphia this year, nearly double the number for any other profession. The annual average salary is \$68,000 per year. Philadelphia is home to several prestigious schools of nursing. Nurses are in demand across Pennsylvania and state labor officials estimate the state will have a nursing shortage of 7,000 to 14,000 nurses this year.

Despite an austere budget, Sen. Tartaglione fought to retain a \$1 million initiative to address the nursing shortage and help qualified applicants connect with nurse training programs. Other health careers, including nursing aides and home health aides are also on the list of the top jobs in Philadelphia. These jobs require brief on-the-job training with an average salary of \$20,000 to \$26,000 per year.



◆ Helping Women Transition into the Workforce

Senator Tartaglione proudly supports The Career Wardrobe, the nation's largest community-based non-profit organization serving women transitioning into the workforce by providing professional attire and innovative educational programs. Since 1995, The Career Wardrobe has assisted more than 50,000 women by inspiring the confidence necessary to achieve independence.

The Career Wardrobe was founded by local women who wanted to help bridge the gap between job training and employment for low-income women in Philadelphia. The organization hired its first Executive Director, Sheri Cole, in 2000 and now employs a staff of seven and army of volunteers to help more than 7,500 women annually transition into the workforce. With a Dressing Suite located on Chestnut Street in Center City Philadelphia, The Career Wardrobe is able to assist women from throughout the Philadelphia region.



- 60% of women served by The Career Wardrobe report securing employment
- 60% are working full-time, with 40% earning over \$11/hour and some earning salaries as high as \$20/hour
- 54% receive a job offer within two interviews after receiving professional clothing and consultation
- 30% are successful in finding clerical and office administration jobs and 20% in the health-care industry, which are jobs with the greatest opportunity for advancement in our region

**The Career Wardrobe • 1211 Chestnut St. • Suite 205 • Philadelphia, PA 19107
215-568-6693 • www.careerwardrobe.org**



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State Senator CHRISTINE M. TARTAGLIONE

2nd Senatorial District



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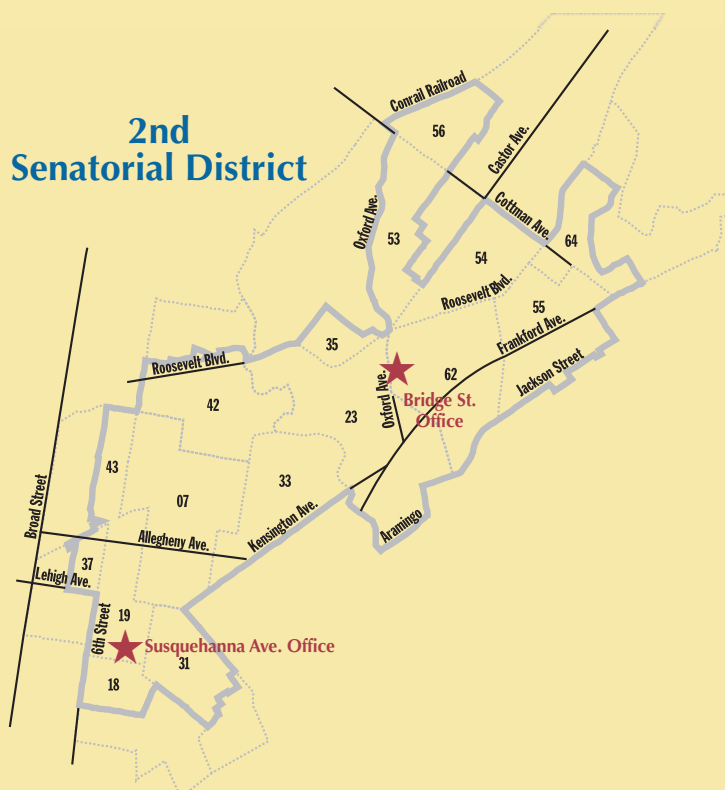
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127 West Susquehanna Avenue
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Senate of Pennsylvania: 1-800-364-1581 (TTY)

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Visit my Web Site:

www.SenatorTartaglione.com