



Golden Age Society

4061A 4th Ave. Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 1H1

(867) 668-5538

gasyt2019@gmail.com

Internet Access Grant – Information Sheet

A Grant Program is Available – Internet Access for Seniors and Elders

A grant program to help Yukon seniors and elders connect to the internet at reduced cost has been extended until March 15, 2021. The program's purpose is to reduce the cost of connecting to the internet and the monthly cost of internet service for seniors and elders who cannot readily afford this service otherwise. The longer-term goal is that all seniors and elders have, and can afford, reliable internet service.

Funding is being provided through the New Horizons program, and United Way Yukon. The Yukon Lung Association and the Golden Age Society are administering the program.

Subject to availability of funds and all other grant restrictions, 75% of equipment and installation costs can be rebated to each qualified applicant who fills in an application before March 15th 2021. Further, subject to availability of funds and all other grant restrictions, 75% of the monthly internet access cost for a maximum of three months for each qualified applicant is also available. The maximum for both grants combined is \$300.00 per individual. The main requirement is that the applicant is a Yukoner over 55 years of age, with some exceptions possible for those in need (such as families with students who need an internet connection). Receipts must be provided as proof of purchase for equipment to connect to the internet and for payment of monthly connection charges.

It is possible that the program may be extended beyond March 15th, 2021. However, seniors and elders are encouraged to act early in order to avoid disappointment. Please tell other seniors and elders who would benefit from this grant.

Equipment That Qualifies for This Program

Laptops, desktop computers, tablets and cell phones are eligible for this grant if purchased with installation of an internet connection service. Seniors and elders can purchase used laptops and desktop computers at Computers for Schools

Yukon (CFSY) (Tel: 456-4365) at Building #1235, 1000 Lewes Blvd, Whitehorse YT Y1A 6N2. Tablets and cell phones with internet/Wi-Fi capability and purchased with a monthly plan are available at a number of locations.

What I Can Use an Internet Connection For

Seniors and elders who have internet access are using that access for a surprising variety of purposes and you can, too. In a recent survey, some of your fellow Golden Age Society members told us what they are using the internet for now. Below is the list of those activities. Please let us know what you use your computer, laptop, or cell phone and internet connection for that other seniors and elders may be interested in.

- contacting family and friends in the territory and around the world, using programs such as Zoom, FaceTime, WhatsApp, Viber, UberConference and Skype,
- sending and replying to email, and texting,
- banking online, paying bills,
- shopping online, including grocery shopping, and garden-supply shopping,
- looking up information/completing research/Googling,
- doing office work from home, attending video conference meetings,
- checking upcoming local events information,
- getting the news, podcasts, music, and magazines; listening to the radio,
- ordering takeout food,
- completing courses online, and submitting course assignments,
- making medical appointments online and conducting virtual medical examinations,
- organizing, storing and sharing photos,
- participating in exercise programs, such as yoga,
- playing games such as scrabble, bingo, scattergories, charades and chess online,
- participating in special-interest groups online (e.g., needlework and quilting),
- participating in support groups online, (e.g., addiction, alzheimer's, anxiety, cancer, diabetes, fibromyalgia, grief, sleep disorders, etc.),
- singing and rehearsing with online choirs,
- attending church services, bible studies, and meditating online,
- participating in virtual tours of tourist destinations, museums and art galleries,
- watching TV shows, movies, videos, concerts, musicals and special broadcasts,
- booking travel arrangements,
- doing volunteer work.

For more information, or to receive an application form for this grant, please contact Sue Berndt in the Golden Age office at 668-5538, or by email at gasyt2019@gmail.com.

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