



State of New Jersey

Department of the Treasury

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Christie Administration Expands Access to Property Tax Relief, Extends Filing Deadline for 2012 Senior Freeze Program

TRENTON – Governor Chris Christie is expanding access to the property tax relief available to New Jersey residents by extending the filing deadline for the 2012 Senior Freeze (Property Tax Reimbursement Program) to September 16, 2013.

“We want to be certain that every resident who is eligible for property tax relief benefits under the Senior Freeze Program has the opportunity to apply for them,” State Treasurer Andrew Sidamon-Eristoff said. “Extending the deadline helps ensure that residents will have ample time to apply for this valuable benefit if they were unaware of — or could not meet — the old deadline.”

Last year, 186,000 senior and disabled New Jersey residents received Senior Freeze checks that averaged almost \$1,200 per recipient. The original deadline for filing Senior Freeze applications was June 3, 2013.

The Division of Taxation mailed 2012 Senior Freeze application booklets in February to current participants as well as other residents who may now be eligible for the program. The Division plans to mail reimbursement checks to eligible senior and disabled residents who file their 2012 applications by the original June 3 deadline in mid-July. Checks for eligible applicants who file 2012 applications after the original June 3 deadline will be processed and delivered as quickly as possible thereafter.

“The Senior Freeze (Property Tax Reimbursement) Program is separate from the Homestead Benefit Program,” Division of Taxation Director Michael Bryan explained. “They are both

property tax relief programs, but they have different eligibility requirements, different applications, and different filing schedules. Applicants can receive benefits under both programs if they qualify. However, the total amount of property tax relief benefits received cannot exceed the amount of property taxes paid on their principal residence for the same year.”

Most eligible residents will receive their Homestead Benefit this year as a credit applied to their property tax bills in August 2013. Applications for the next year’s Homestead Benefit will be distributed in the fall.

For more information on the 2012 Senior Freeze Program, or to obtain an application, residents can contact the Senior Freeze (Property Tax Reimbursement) Hotline at 1-800-882-6597 or visit one of the Taxation Regional Offices around the State. Representatives are available by phone or in person from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Directions to the Regional Offices are available at: www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/ot1.shtml.

Information about the Senior Freeze Program, including the eligibility requirements, is also available on the Division of Taxation’s Web site at www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/ptr/buffer.shtml.