

SENIOR CITIZENS' EXEMPTIONS



REAL ESTATE TAX SAVINGS PROGRAMS

SENIOR CITIZEN HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

Who is eligible?

To qualify you must:

- be age 65 or older any time in the assessment year for which the application is made.
- own and occupy the property during the application year.
- be liable for the payment of real estate taxes on the property.

How to apply.

Eligible senior taxpayers must complete an application by December 1st, supply proof of age and verify property ownership. Applications and guidelines are available from the Supervisor of Assessments Office. Annual blue renewal (status) cards are sent to qualified taxpayers each year and should be returned before May 1st to the Supervisor of Assessments Office to confirm continuing eligibility.

What benefits does this exemption provide?

The Senior Citizen Homestead Exemption provides a \$4,000 reduction from the equalized assessed valuation. The Owner Occupied Exemption is automatically granted with this Senior Citizen Exemption. This provides an additional reduction of up to \$6,000 from the equalized assessed value. For a senior whose property is subject to a hypothetical tax rate of 10.00 per one hundred dollars of assessed value the Senior Citizen Exemption results in a tax savings of \$400 ($\$4,000 \times .10000$) for a total savings of 1,000.

ASSESSMENT FREEZE HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

Who is eligible?

To qualify you must:

- establish age, ownership and residency by applying for the Senior Citizen Homestead Exemption.
- have a total household income (before deductions) of less than \$55,000. This includes all taxable and non-taxable income.
- own and occupy the property on January 1st of the application year and prior base year.
- be liable for payment of real estate taxes on the property. In some cases, the surviving spouse of an eligible senior citizen may qualify.

How to apply.

Eligible senior taxpayers must complete an application affidavit (pink PTAX 340 form). This form must be signed and notarized. Income from all household members needs to be itemized and totaled for the year prior to the application year. All information acquired from the application is confidential and may be used only for official purposes. **This exemption should be filed for every year by the July 1st deadline.** Applications are mailed by the Supervisor of Assessments to those senior taxpayers receiving a blue Senior Citizen renewal form.

What benefits does this exemption provide?

The Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption provides seniors with limited income protection against real estate tax increases due to rising property values. It is not a tax freeze or a tax reduction and does not protect against increased taxes due to tax rate increases. Because this exemption provides for a base year frozen assessment, it will potentially provide increased savings each year a senior is eligible.

If a senior no longer qualifies for the Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption, taxes will then be based on the current “non-freeze” property assessment.

HOMESTEAD IMPROVEMENT EXEMPTION

This exemption reduces the Board of Review assessed value by the amount of increase in assessed value due to improvements added to an existing structure. It is available for single family residential principal dwellings. This exemption encourages the expansion and improvement of homes by exempting up to \$25,000 in assessment increase for that addition for four (4) years from the date of completion.

Information and applications for these tax savings may be obtained from the

**Supervisor of Assessments Office
404 Elm Street, Room 301
Rockford, IL 61101
Phone: (815) 319-4460**

None of the exemptions described on this page requires the repayment of tax savings.



SENIOR REAL ESTATE TAX DEFERRAL PROGRAM

Who is eligible?

To qualify you must:

- be age 65 or older by **June** 1st of the year for which the application is made.
- have a total household income of less than \$50,000.
- Own (property must remain in senior’s name) and occupy the property.
- have lived in the property or other qualifying property at least 3 years.
- be liable for payment of real estate taxes on the property.
- have no delinquent real estate taxes.
- file an application by March 1st.

How to apply.

Application and guidelines are available from the Winnebago County Treasurer, 404 Elm St., Rm 205, Rockford, IL 61101. Phone: (815) 319-4400

What benefits does this program provide?

This program allows a qualifying senior to defer payment of real estate taxes on his or her personal residence. The State of Illinois pays the real estate taxes. Then when the senior sells the property or within a year of his or her death, repayment plus interest of 6% annually is made.