

HOMESTEAD BENEFIT NEWS

The Division of Taxation will be mailing **2016** Homestead Benefit application packets according to the schedule below. The deadline for filing is **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2018**.

County	Delivery Expected to Begin
Monmouth, Somerset, Union	Sept. 15
Hunterdon, Middlesex, Passaic, Sussex	Sept. 18
Camden, Hudson, Morris	Sept. 20
Burlington, Essex, Gloucester, Salem	Sept. 22
Atlantic, Bergen, Cumberland, Warren	Sept. 25
Cape May, Mercer, Ocean	Sept. 27

Please do not call about a missing application until at least one week following the expected delivery date for a particular county.

Using the same delivery schedule as for the printed applications, the Division will send emails to homeowners who requested electronic applications.

With very few exceptions, homeowners must file their applications online or by phone. Homeowners should read the instructions in the packet carefully, and if they meet the eligibility requirements, complete the worksheet in the packet before filing. **Homeowners who have already sold the home that was their principal residence on Oct. 1, 2016, or who plan to sell** should visit the Division's website (www.njtaxation.org) for additional guidance.

The online application (www.njtaxation.org) and automated telephone filing system (1-877-658-2972) will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week during the filing period.

Homeowners may be eligible for the 2016 Homestead Benefit if they met the following conditions:

- Domicile (permanent legal residence) was in New Jersey.
- Owned and occupied a home in New Jersey that was their principal residence on Oct. 1, 2016.
- Had New Jersey gross income for 2016 that was not more than \$150,000 for homeowners who were 65 or older or disabled, and not more than \$75,000 for homeowners who were under age 65 and not disabled. The income limits apply to a single individual, a married/civil union couple living in the same residence, and a married/civil union partner maintaining a residence separate from their spouse/civil union partner.

- The home was subject to local property taxes, and the 2016 property taxes were paid. (The State Budget requires that the benefit amount be calculated using 2006 property taxes.)

Most homeowners will receive their 2016 benefit payment as a credit on a future property tax bill. Homeowners who indicated when filing that they no longer own the property or those whose principal residence was a unit in a co-op or continuing care retirement community will receive their benefit by check or direct deposit.

Residents should not confuse the Homestead Benefit Program with the Senior Freeze (Property Tax Reimbursement) Program. They are separate property tax relief programs with different eligibility requirements, different applications, and different filing schedules. Applicants can receive benefits under both programs if they qualify. The total amount of property tax relief benefits a homeowner receives, however, cannot exceed the amount of property taxes paid on their principal residence for the same year.

Homestead Benefit (for homeowners):

- To file applications online: www.njtaxation.org
- To file applications by phone: 1-877-658-2972
- To ask questions: 1-888-238-1233 (8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays)
- In-person assistance at Taxation Regional Offices (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays):
www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/organization/ts-regional.shtml
- Online information:
www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/homestead/geninf.shtml

Senior Freeze:

- To ask questions or to order an application: 1-800-882-6597
- To check the status of a filed application: 1-800-882-6597
- To listen to information: 1-800-323-4400
- In-person assistance at Taxation Regional Information Centers:
www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/organization/ts-regional.shtml
- Online information: www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/ptr/index.shtml

Text Telephone Service (TTY/TDD) for Hearing Impaired Users: 1-800-286-6613 or 609-984-7300

Taxation email address for Homestead Benefit and general tax questions:
nj.taxation@treas.state.nj.us