



State of New Jersey
Department of the Treasury

For Immediate Release

June 1, 2012

**Governor Christie Expands Access to Property Tax Relief,
Extends Homestead & Senior Freeze Deadlines to Oct. 19**

TRENTON, N.J. -- Governor Chris Christie, acting to ensure that more New Jerseyans receive property tax relief, has extended the deadlines for Homestead Benefit and Senior Freeze applications to Friday, October 19, Treasurer Andrew Sidamon-Eristoff said.

“This Administration’s goal is to make certain that every eligible taxpayer has the opportunity to apply for these property tax benefits,” Treasurer Sidamon-Eristoff said. “Seniors and disabled New Jerseyans who may have been unaware of the old deadlines now have ample time to file for both their Homestead Benefit credits and Senior Freeze payments.”

Senior Freeze applications were due today, June 1. The Homestead Benefit application deadline was June 30. Benefits for both programs will be based on past property tax payments.

The Senior Freeze, officially known as the Property Tax Reimbursement program, is available to homeowners or mobile home owners who are 65 years or older who have low or moderate incomes, or to disabled residents who receive federal Social Security payments. The Division of Taxation mailed Senior Freeze applications to current and newly eligible participants in February. Taxpayers who think they might be eligible also can get applications by contacting the Senior Freeze hotline at **1-800-882-6597** from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays.

Senior Freeze participants receive a check based on the difference between current property taxes and the property taxes paid on the first year of eligibility in the program. Reimbursement checks for eligible senior and disabled residents who file this year's applications by the original filing deadline of June 1 are scheduled to be mailed in mid-July. Checks for eligible applicants who file after the original June 1 deadline will be processed and delivered as quickly as possible thereafter.

The Homestead Benefit program pays credits against local property taxes. Under the budget proposed by Governor Chris Christie, New Jersey resident homeowners who earned \$75,000 or less in 2011 will receive the credits, as will senior or disabled taxpayers who earned \$150,000 or less. The value of the credits appears on local property tax bills.

The Division of Taxation mailed application packets for this year's Homestead Benefit in early May. Homeowners who filed last year's Homestead Benefit applications online and indicated that they wanted to receive this year's application electronically were sent an e-mail containing instructions for downloading their application packet.

Phone Numbers for Tax Relief Programs

Senior Freeze (Property Tax Reimbursement) Hotline:

1-800-882-6597 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays

Division of Taxation's Homestead Benefit Hotline:

1-888-238-1233 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Automated Tax Information System:

1-800-323-4400, available round the clock, every day of the week.

Text Telephone Service for the Hearing Impaired:

1-800-286-6613 or **609-984-7300**

Phone filing of Homestead Benefit Applications:

1-877-658-2972

Web Sites for Tax Relief Programs

Online filing of Homestead Benefit Application and general information about the Homestead Benefit and Senior Freeze programs:

www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation

General Homestead Benefit information:

www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/homestead/geninf.shtml

Members of the media can call Bill Quinn or Andy Pratt at (609) 633-6565 for more information.