



## State of New Jersey

Department of the Treasury

**For Immediate Release:**  
July 15, 2013

**For Information Contact:**  
Bill Quinn  
(609) 633-6565

### **\$154 Million in Property Tax Relief On Way to 130,000 New Jersey Seniors**

*State Accepting Senior Freeze Applications until Sept. 16*

**TRENTON** – The Division of Taxation has mailed out Senior Freeze checks worth \$154 million to 130,000 senior and disabled homeowners around the state, State Treasurer Andrew Sidamon-Eristoff announced.

“Property tax relief is vitally important to New Jersey’s hard-pressed homeowners, and Governor Christie is committed to ensuring that everyone who is eligible receives their fair share of help through the Senior Freeze and Homestead Benefit programs, the two property tax relief programs with the widest reach,” the Treasurer said.

“Once again, Senior Freeze checks will average almost \$1,200 per recipient this year and will help senior and disabled residents manage in these stressful economic times.”

To give eligible New Jersey residents the maximum opportunity to take advantage of the state’s property tax relief programs, Governor Christie extended the filing deadline for the Senior Freeze program to Sept. 16. The Senior Freeze, officially known as the Property Tax Reimbursement

Program, is available to homeowners or mobile home owners 65 or older who have low to moderate incomes, or to disabled residents who receive federal Social Security assistance.

Once a homeowner qualifies, the program sends that individual a check each year if they apply for the program and continue to qualify. The payment is designed to shield homeowners living on fixed or limited incomes from the impact of property tax increases.

As applications are completed and approved, additional Senior Freeze checks will be mailed out on a rolling basis between now and the end of the year.

“The State’s Fiscal Year 2014 budget dedicates \$214 million for the Senior Freeze, so we will have additional funds available to meet the needs of qualified taxpayers who have not yet filed or whose applications are still being processed,” the Treasurer noted. “We urge all taxpayers who are eligible for this valuable benefit to be sure to apply before the Sept. 16 deadline.”

To be accepted for the Senior Freeze program, an applicant must have had 2011 income of no more than \$80,000 and 2012 income of no more than \$70,000. For married taxpayers or those in a civil union, the limits apply to their combined household income. However, an applicant with 2012 income of more than \$70,000 but less than \$82,880 who meets the other program qualifications can file an application to establish a “base year” for any future reimbursements. Then, if program qualification levels change in future years and more taxpayers become eligible, they can seek reimbursement for any increases in their property taxes that occur after their base year. Further information on the Senior Freeze and Homestead Benefit programs is available at the phone numbers and websites below.

### **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**

**Web Sites for Tax Relief Programs**

*General information about the Senior Freeze program:*

<http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/relief.shtml>

*General information about the Homestead Benefit program:*

[www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/homestead/geninf.shtml](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/homestead/geninf.shtml)