

Homestead Benefit Information for Homeowners Age 65 or Older and/or Disabled on December 31, 2013

The Deadline for Filing has been extended to December 31, 2015

Eligibility

You may be eligible for a 2013 New Jersey homestead benefit if:

- You were a New Jersey resident; and
- You owned and occupied a home in New Jersey that was your principal residence on October 1, 2013 (If you were not a homeowner on October 1, 2013, you are not eligible for a homestead benefit, even if you owned a home for part of the year.); and
- Property taxes for 2013 were paid on that home; and
- You meet certain [income limits](#).

For 2013, the income limits were as of December 31, 2013:

- \$150,000 for homeowners age 65 or older or blind or disabled; and
- \$75,000 for homeowners under age 65 and not blind or disabled.

These income amounts apply to a single individual, a married/civil union couple living in the same residence, and married/civil union partners maintaining separate residences. Do not include [nontaxable income](#) such as Social Security, Railroad Retirement benefits, or unemployment compensation when calculating your income.

The amount appropriated in the State Budget for property tax relief programs affected homestead benefits for 2013. Only homeowners who meet the eligibility requirements, including the income requirements, can receive homestead benefits for 2013. You can file an application regardless of your income, but if it exceeds the amounts above, we will deny your application.

You are **not eligible** unless you are required to pay property taxes on your home. For example, you are not eligible if:

- You are completely exempt from paying property taxes on your principal residence (such as certain totally and permanently disabled war veterans).
- You made P.I.L.O.T. (Payments-in-Lieu-of-Tax) payments to your municipality. These payments are not considered property taxes for purposes of the homestead benefit.

How to File

Most homeowners file their applications either online or by phone. Both filing systems are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week during the filing period. The filing deadline for 2013 Homestead Benefit Application is October 30, 2015.

[Online](#) or by phone at 1-877-658-2972

Note: If you need to file a paper application, you can request one through either of the filing systems after entering your ID and PIN or phone systems - see below:

- **Online Filing System**. Once you enter your Identification Number and PIN, you can request that we send you a paper application by mail. Or, you can view and print a copy of the paper application immediately.
- **Phone Filing System (1-877-658-2972)**. After you enter your Identification Number and PIN, you can indicate that the name preprinted on your application is incorrect. Once you do that, we will send you a paper application. You will also have an opportunity to update your mailing address if necessary.
- **Homestead Benefit Hotline**. Call 1-888-238-1233 (8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except State holidays), to request a paper application.

Benefit Amount

Most homeowners will receive their benefit as a credit on a future property tax bill. Your tax collector will issue a property tax bill or advice copy reflecting the amount of the benefit.

You will receive a check (or direct deposit) if:

- Your home was a unit in a co-op or a continuing care retirement community;
or
- You indicated that you no longer owned your home. (See [Homeowners Who Sold or Plan to Sell Their Homes](#) for more information.)

The homestead benefit calculation is based on your:

- 2013 New Jersey gross income,
- 2013 filing status (single, married, filing jointly, head of household, etc.),
- Age/disability status (whether you were age 65 or older and/or disabled on December 31, 2013),
- [Property taxes](#) paid in 2006 on your principal residence.

Amounts received under the Homestead Benefit Program are in addition to the State's other property tax relief programs. The total of all property tax relief benefits received (homestead benefit, property tax reimbursement, property tax deduction for senior citizens/disabled persons, and property tax deduction for veterans) cannot exceed the amount of property taxes paid on your principal residence for the same year.

If you receive a benefit that is larger than the amount for which you are eligible, you must repay any excess received. The Division can deduct the amount owed from your homestead benefit or income tax refund or credit before the payment is issued.

- Additional Information for [Homeowners Who Sold or Plan to Sell Their Homes](#)
- Homestead Benefit [Frequently Asked Questions](#)