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Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program Applications Now Available

Free filing assistance available statewide

Harrisburg – Application forms for the Department of Revenue's Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program are now available for eligible residents to begin claiming rebates on property taxes or rent paid in 2012.

The rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians age 65 and older; widows and widowers age 50 and older; and people with disabilities age 18 and older. The income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters, and half of Social Security income is excluded.

The maximum standard rebate is \$650, but supplemental rebates for qualifying homeowners can boost rebates to \$975.

Each resident who prepared and filed a paper rebate form last year not utilizing computer software should have received a 2012 application form by now. Renters who prepared claims last year using computer software rather than the PA-1000 booklet received letters by mail reminding the resident to apply for a 2012 rebate and providing them with two copies of the PA-1000 Rent Certificate.

It costs nothing to apply for a rebate. In response to continued inquiries and complaints regarding fee-based application filing services offered privately, the department reminds residents that free filing help is available at hundreds of locations across the state. Application forms and assistance are available at no cost from Department of Revenue district offices, local Area Agencies on Aging, senior centers and state legislators' offices.

Applications are also available online at www.revenue.state.pa.us or by calling 1-888-222-9190.

Older adults must reapply for rebates every year because rebates are based on property taxes or rent paid each year and annual income.

The deadline to apply for a rebate on property taxes or rent paid in 2012 is June 30, 2013. Rebates will be distributed beginning on July 1, as specified by law.

More than \$282.8 million in property tax and rent rebates have been sent to more than 596,000 homeowners and renters across the state for taxes and rent paid in 2011.

The department wants all eligible Pennsylvanians to apply for and receive rebates through this program, but it cautions that fraudulent or falsified rebate claims will result in denial of rebate.

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is one of five programs supported by the Pennsylvania Lottery. Since the program's 1971 inception, older adults and adults with disabilities have received \$5.4 billion in property tax and rent rebates. Revenue from slots gaming also funds the Property Tax/Rent Rebate program.

For more information, visit www.revenue.state.pa.us.

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