

Property Tax and Rent Rebate Deadline is June 30

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June 30 is the deadline to file an application for the Pennsylvania Property Tax Rent Rebate program. The state General Assembly established the program in 1971 to help low income elderly, disabled, and widowed citizens to keep their homes. The program is paid for through state lottery funds and managed by the Department of Revenue.

The state has distributed more than four billion dollars since the beginning of the program. In 2006, more than one-half million people received \$243.1 million statewide. In Allegheny County, 101,943 residents received \$41,545,015.77.

To qualify, you or your spouse must be age 65 or older, or a widow/widower age 50 or older, or permanently disabled and age 18 or older. You can receive a rebate on property taxes or rent that you pay on your primary residence. The maximum income limit is \$35,000 per year for homeowners and 15,000 for renters. Program rules count half of your Social Security and Railroad Retirement benefits, along with all of your other income.

If you qualify, you can receive up to \$650 for property taxes or rent paid during 2008. Residents of Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and Scranton receive an additional 50 percent above their regular rebate because of higher wage and income taxes in those areas. Rebate checks for the 2008 benefit year will be mailed after July 1.

You need the form PA-1000 to apply. You can download a form online or call the PA Department of Revenue. Forms are also available at most state and local government offices and many public libraries. You will have to send copies of proof of your age and your income, along with proof that you paid your property taxes or rent for 2008. Detailed instructions are included with the forms.

If you qualify for this program, you may also be eligible for other services through the Allegheny County Area Agency on Aging. The services, provided in connection with the state Department of Aging and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, include prescription assistance, meals, home health and personal care, housekeeping, shopping and transportation services. Contact information is listed below.

The deadline to apply for the property tax and rent rebate is June 30. The state will not accept applications after that.

For more information, or to get an application, go to www.revenue.state.pa.us.

- Click "Sign up for Property Tax Rent Rebate Form".
- E-mail your request, including your mailing address, to: ra-forms@state.pa.us.
- Call 1-888-PATAxes, (1-888-728-2937). Select the Forms Ordering Message Service to order the form you need by fax or regular mail.
- Taxpayers with special hearing and/or speaking needs can call toll-free 1-800-447-3020(TT only).
- Pick up a form from the local District Office (listed in the blue pages of your local telephone directory) nearest you.
- Send a written request including your mailing address to: PA Department of Revenue, Tax Forms Service Unit, 711 Gibson Blvd., Harrisburg, PA 17104-3200.

For the Allegheny County Area Agency on Aging:

Allegheny County AAA
441 Smithfield Street
Second Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-2219

SeniorLine: (412) 350-5460

Toll Free: (800) 344-4319

Tel: (412) 350-4234

Web site: www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/olderadults.aspx

E-mail: SeniorLine@dhs.county.allegheny.pa.us

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Read past columns at www.patomalley-consulting.com*