

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations



**Department of Human Services
Division of Elderly Affairs**

RHODE ISLAND SENIOR BEAT

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GET READY TO FILE YOUR 2012 PROPERTY TAX RELIEF CLAIM

CRANSTON --- For more than 30 years, qualified home owners and renters have been receiving a rebate from the Rhode Island Division of Taxation to help them pay their property taxes and rent under the Rhode Island Property Tax Relief Program. An application for rebate under this program can be filed using the 2012 Rhode Island Property Tax Relief Claim form (RI-1040H). Form RI-1040H must be filed between January 1 and April 15. Rhode Island resident homeowners and renters with household incomes not exceeding \$30,000 may receive up to a \$300 rebate from the Rhode Island Division of Taxation. Only one claim can be filed per household.

In addition to the \$30,000 income limit, applicants need to fulfill several other requirements before being eligible for the rebate. The applicant must have been a Rhode Island resident for all of 2012. The applicant must have resided in a home or rented a dwelling that is subject to property taxes. The applicant must be current on property taxes or rent for all prior years. The applicant must agree to remain current on all property taxes or rent and agrees to remit any unpaid installments. If an applicant does not meet all these requirements, they will not be eligible for a rebate under the Rhode Island Property Tax Relief Program.

When determining household income, all income from those living in the household is counted. Adjusted gross income from a federal tax return, if applicable; non-taxable interest and dividends; capital gains not included on a federal income tax return; Social Security benefits; Railroad Retirement benefits; workers compensation and tax-exempt pensions; cash public assistance; and other non-taxable income, such as child support, is considered in calculating total household income.

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Even if an applicant is not required to file a federal or state tax return, he or she can file a Rhode Island Property Tax Relief Claim. Not all applicants receive an entire rebate of \$300. Form RI-1040H contains a worksheet for calculating total household income. Rebates are calculated on a sliding scale and the percentage of income allowed as a credit for determining the actual amount of the rebate is based on the total household income and whether or not the household contains one person or two or more persons.

Applicants are required to submit a copy of their 2012 Social Security award letter or Form 1099 with their RI-1040H claim. Homeowners must attach a copy of their 2012 property tax bills and renters are required to submit copies of their 2012 lease or rent receipts.

For information and assistance with the RI-1040H Property Tax Relief Claim, call the Division of Taxation at 574-8829. The number to obtain forms is 574-8970. The Division of Taxation web site is www.tax.state.ri.us.

Additional Tax Tips: Many Rhode Island cities and towns offer some form of property tax relief to their older citizens who meet age, income, and residency requirements. Some towns offer tax relief to veterans or disabled persons. Inquire at your city or town hall.

The AARP Tax Aide program provides information and assistance with completing tax returns during the tax season. For more information, call 1-866-542-8170, or go to www.aarp.org/ri.

For information regarding federal taxes, contact the Internal Revenue Service at 1-800-829-1040 (Voice/TTY). The number for forms only is 1-800-829-3676. The web site is www.irs.gov.

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The Rhode Island Department of Human Services, Division of Elderly Affairs (DEA) is responsible for the development and implementation of a comprehensive system of programs and services for Rhode Islanders ages 60 and older and for adults with disabilities. Questions or requests for additional information on the issues of growing older, or for issues concerning adults with disabilities in Rhode Island should be directed to: Larry Grimaldi, Rhode Island Senior Beat, Rhode Island Department of Human Services, Division of Elderly Affairs, 74 West Road, Cranston, RI 02920 or faxed to 462-0545. The e-mail address is lgrimaldi@dea.ri.gov.