



State of New Jersey Department of the Treasury

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Christie Administration Extends Homestead Benefit Filing Deadline to January 31, 2014

Trenton – To help taxpayers cope with the many distractions and commitments of the busy holiday season, the Christie Administration has extended the deadline for filing Homestead Benefit applications from Tuesday, December 31, to Friday, January 31, 2014.

The 2011 Homestead Benefit program paid \$396 million in benefits to 844,096 homeowners. On average, each taxpayer received a benefit of \$469.33, typically as a credit against their local property tax bills.

“We are pleased to provide this additional time to homeowners so they can participate in this important property tax relief program,” said State Treasurer Andrew Sidamon-Eristoff. “They should also be careful to observe this deadline,” the Treasurer added, “because it will be the final deadline for filing.”

The Administration previously extended the filing deadline from November 22 to December 31.

To be eligible for a Homestead Benefit based on home ownership during calendar year 2012, you must be a New Jersey resident who owned a principal residence on October 1, 2012, and paid property taxes on that home. You must also have reported \$75,000 or less in New Jersey gross income for 2012 or, if you were disabled or age 65 or older on December 31, 2012, you must have reported gross income for 2012 of \$150,000 or less.

For more information on the Homestead Benefit Program, homeowners may call the Division of Taxation's Homestead Benefit Hotline at **1-888-238-1233** from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Homestead benefit information is also available on the Division's website at www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/homestead/geninf.shtml and through its Automated Tax Information System at **1-800-323-4400**. Text telephone service for the hearing impaired is provided at **1-800-286-6613** or **609-984-7300**.

Homeowners who received an application packet in the mail should read the instructions and complete the worksheet in their packet before attempting to file. **Anyone who has recently sold or is preparing to sell their home should read the instructions carefully to avoid missing out on the Homestead Benefit.**

Homeowners can file online at: www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/ or by phone at **1-877-658-2972**.