



State of New Jersey

Department of the Treasury

**For Immediate Release
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Mailing of Homestead Benefit Applications Begins

Some homeowners will receive the first applications for the new Homestead Benefit program next week. Application packets will be mailed to approximately 1.5 million eligible homeowners over the next three weeks.

This is the first year that New Jersey will provide property tax relief to homeowners through tax credits rather than rebate checks. Homeowners who meet the eligibility requirements will receive a partial credit for property taxes they paid in 2009 against their property tax bills for the second quarter of 2011.

The deadline for all homeowners to file their applications is Nov. 1.

New Jersey residents who owned a principal residence on October 1, 2009, and paid property taxes on that home, are eligible to receive the Homestead Benefit if they reported \$75,000 or less in New Jersey gross income in 2009, or if they are a senior or disabled citizen with 2009 gross income 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 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Homestead benefit information is also available on the Division's website at www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/2009homesteadinfo.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**. Once they receive their applications, homeowners can file by phone by calling **1-877-658-2972**, or online at: www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/ .

Homestead benefit applications are scheduled for delivery to homeowners as follows:

County	Delivery Expected to Begin
Atlantic, Essex, Monmouth, Sussex	September 8
Morris, Ocean	September 11
Camden, Hudson, Hunterdon, Salem, Somerset	September 15
Bergen, Burlington, Cumberland, Warren	September 18
Gloucester, Mercer, Middlesex, Passaic	September 22
Cape May, Union	September 25

Because it may take the U.S. Postal Service several days to deliver applications throughout each county, not every homeowner will receive an application on the day delivery is expected to begin. Homeowners are asked to wait at least a week following the expected delivery date for their county before calling the Division to check on a missing application.

The Homestead Benefit Program is different from the Senior Freeze (Property Tax Reimbursement) Program. A comparison of the eligibility requirements for these two programs can be found on the Division's website at: www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/. **Applications for the Senior Freeze Program are also due by Nov. 1.**