State of New Jersey
Department of the Treasury

Christie Administration Begins Mailing Homestead Benefit Property Tax Relief Applications

TRENTON – The New Jersey Division of Taxation has begun mailing Homestead Benefit applications. Approximately 1.3 million New Jersey households will receive their application packets over the next three weeks either through regular mail or email.

Under Governor Chris Christie, New Jersey provides property tax relief to qualified homeowners through credits on their local property tax bills. Homeowners who meet the eligibility requirements will receive a partial credit for property taxes they paid in 2012.

Earlier this year, the program paid more than $396 million in benefits to 844,096 homeowners based on property taxes they paid during 2011. On average, each taxpayer received a benefit of $469.33.

To be eligible for a benefit for calendar year 2012, you must be a New Jersey resident who owned a principal residence on Oct. 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 Dec. 31, 2012, you must have reported gross income for 2012 of $150,000 or less.

The deadline for all homeowners to file is Friday, November 22, 2013.

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

Once they receive their applications, homeowners can file online at: www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/, or by phone at **1-877-658-2972.**

Homestead Benefit applications for 2012 that are being mailed are scheduled for delivery to homeowners as follows:

County	Delivery Expected to Begin
Camden, Hudson, Hunterdon, Salem, Somerset	October 10
Bergen, Burlington, Cumberland, Warren	October 12
Morris, Ocean	October 15
Atlantic, Essex, Monmouth	October 18
Cape May, Union	October 19
Gloucester, Mercer, Middlesex, Passaic	October 22

Because it may take the U.S. Postal Service several days to deliver applications, 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 of Taxation to check on a missing application.

Homeowners who filed their 2011 Homestead Benefit applications online and indicated that they wanted to receive this year's application electronically will be sent an e-mail containing instructions for downloading their 2012 application packet. The Division of Taxation will send out these e-mail messages by county according to the same delivery schedule as for the printed packets.

The Homestead Benefit Program is different from the Senior Freeze (Property Tax Reimbursement) Program. They are separate property tax relief programs with different eligibility requirements, different applications, and different filing schedules. Applicants can receive benefits under both programs if they qualify.

For information about the Senior Freeze Program, contact the Senior Freeze (Property Tax Reimbursement) Hotline at **1**-**800**-**882**-**6597** from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Information

is also available on the Division of Taxation's website at
www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/ptr/buffer.shtml