



ELDERLY TAX RELIEF

Applications for tax credits for Town of Cheshire homeowners over 65 years of age and those totally disabled are taken at the Assessor's office in the Cheshire Town Hall between February 1st and the middle of May. These programs consist of the following:

STATE OF CONNECTICUT ELDERLY HOMEOWNERS PROGRAM - This is a real estate tax credit program for homeowners who are at least 65 years of age as of December 31st and meet certain income guidelines, which require that annual income, **including Social Security benefits**, should not exceed the limit set by the State of Connecticut. Applicants must bring all proof of their income, including a copy of their most recent federal income tax return, if one is filed, and proof of Social Security income (Form 1099) for the calendar year. Also, the applicant must own and reside in the property for which tax relief is sought or must hold a tenancy for life use of the property and be liable for the tax bill. This must be the applicant's principal or legal residence.

Homeowners who are disabled but under age 65 can also apply. Applicants must provide their disability award letter from the Social Security Administration, and the same income guidelines established for the elderly homeowners program must be met.

Previous participants in this program will be required to refile their applications biennially and will be notified by mail of this refiling requirement. New applicants who think they qualify for this tax relief should inquire at the Assessor's Office.

TOWN OF CHESHIRE LOCAL ELDERLY TAX RELIEF PROGRAM - In addition to the State of Connecticut property tax relief program, the Town of Cheshire has a local tax relief program. This program currently provides three types of property tax relief for qualifying applicants.

- A tax credit for married couples whose income does not exceed \$53,100 and single people whose income does not exceed \$49,300
- A tax deferral of up to 75% of taxes for married couples whose income does not exceed \$39,500 and single people whose income does not exceed \$32,300
- A local elderly tax freeze. The income limits for this program are the same as they are for the deferral program. Applicants must be 70 years old. Further details can be obtained from the Assessor's office.

To qualify for these local tax relief programs, these income guidelines must be met as well as the age or disability criteria outlined in the above mentioned state programs. Applicants must bring proof of their income, including a copy of their most recent federal income tax return, if one is filed, and proof of Social Security income (Form 1099) for the calendar year. The application period for those interested in the Town program is February 1st through the middle of May.

For the convenience of applicants, the Assessor's Office sends representatives to the Cheshire Senior Center to take applications for these programs.

Please call the Assessor's Office at 271-6620 for more information.