



STATE SENATOR PATTY RITCHIE

Questions and Answers About Enhanced STAR

St. Lawrence County Assessors

Ogdensburg
315-393-4030

Canton
315-386-2595

DeKalb
315-347-3331

DePeyster
315-344-2400 x 3

Edwards
315-562-3683

Fowler
315-287-1418

Gouverneur
315-287-3102

Hammond
315-324-5321

Hermon
315-347-3606

Lisbon
315-393-7593

Q. Who Qualifies for Enhanced STAR?

A. If you own your home, and are turning 65 or older anytime during 2012, then maybe you do. You must have earned no more than \$79,050 during 2010. The income limits change each year, based on increases in the cost of living. Even if you exceed the limit, you still may be eligible for basic STAR.

Q. What is the deadline to apply?

A. In most towns and cities, the deadline is March 1. You should contact your Assessor to be sure.

Q. My birthday is after March 1. Do I still qualify for Enhanced STAR?

A. Yes, if you are turning 65 or older at any time during 2012, you may still qualify.

Q. How do I apply for Enhanced STAR?

A. You must file an application with your local Assessor, and show that your income was no greater than \$79,050 during 2010. For the purposes of Enhanced STAR, the income limit applies to all of the property's owners and your spouse. You must provide a copy of your income tax return.

Q. Do I have to reapply each year?

A. You may choose to participate in the optional Income Verification Program, which authorizes your Assessor to verify your income eligibility each year. In that case, you do not need to reapply. Ask your Assessor for Form RP-425-IVP.

Q. Can a surviving spouse who is not 65 years old continue to receive Enhanced STAR?

A. Yes, if she or he is at least 62 years old on December 31.

Q. What types of properties are eligible for STAR?

A. Enhanced STAR is available for owner-occupied residences, including: houses, condominiums, cooperative apartments, manufactured homes and farm houses. STAR is also available for mixed use properties, including apartment buildings, but only applies to the owner-occupied portion of such properties.

Macomb
315-578-2212 x 2

Madrid
315-322-5760

Morristown
315-375-8415

Oswegatchie
315-344-2400

Rossie
315-324-5166

Russell
315-347-4825

Waddington
315-388-5629

Q. How will I know my Enhanced STAR application has been approved?

A. Assessors are required to notify applicants if your application is denied. Ask your Assessor for a receipt when you apply. And keep a copy of your application.

Q. How will I know how much I am saving on my taxes?

A. Your school property tax bill will show the value of your STAR savings.

Q. Does STAR apply to all taxes on my property?

A. The STAR exemption applies only to school district taxes.

Q. Is STAR available on my vacation residence?

A. STAR will reduce school property taxes on your primary residence only. Your local assessor may ask you to provide proof of residency with the application.

Q. What if I buy a new home?

A. Your STAR tax exemption is not transferred automatically. You need to apply for the exemption on your new primary residence by the deadline.

Q. I currently receive the low-income senior citizen exemption. Can I receive the STAR benefits and still keep my other exemption?

A. Yes. To ensure the maximum STAR benefit, the program requires that, before applying STAR, assessors first apply all other applicable exemptions to the property's assessed value. Low-income senior citizens who receive the Senior Citizens Exemption automatically qualify for Enhanced STAR.

Q. Is the Enhanced STAR application available in large print?

A. Yes. Ask your Assessor for the large print version of Form RP-425.



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