



City of Lewiston Press Announcement September 22, 2022

“The new Property Tax Stabilization Program should provide eligible seniors living in Lewiston with some meaningful tax relief,” notes Lewiston’s Chief Assessor Bill Healey. Assessing staff has been processing stabilization applications since August 8th with nearly 1,000 applications received so far. The deadline filing date is December 1st.

Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens, also known as the Property Tax Stabilization Program (the “Program”), is a State program that allows eligible senior citizen residents to stabilize, or freeze, the property taxes on their homestead. If an individual is at least age 65 and has owned a homestead in Maine for at least ten years, that person may qualify for the property tax stabilization at the amount billed in the year when applying for the program. Eligible residents who move may transfer the fixed tax amount to a new homestead, even if that new homestead is in a different Maine municipality.

What is a homestead? According to the Maine Revenue Services, homestead means residential real property owned by an individual or individuals and occupied by those individuals as their permanent residence. Residential real property held in a revocable living trust for a beneficiary who occupies the property as his or her permanent residence also qualifies as a homestead. In addition, a resident homeowner who is subject to foreclosure and subsequently purchases the home back from the municipality is considered to have no interruption in homeownership for purposes of this exemption.

If one’s application for stabilization is approved, this will first affect the property taxes owed for the property tax year following the year of submitting the application. One’s respective municipality may also request additional documentation to prove eligibility for the stabilization program.

Mayor Carl L. Sheline notes, ***“Older adults on fixed incomes shouldn't have to choose between which necessities to pay for if we can avoid it. With this program, older adults will be less burdened by property taxes.”***

For Lewiston seniors, the application is available at the Lewiston Assessor’s Office and online at www.lewistonmaine.gov/stabilization. Each completed application must be submitted to the municipal office for the town/city in which the the homestead is located. For Lewiston, the address is: Lewiston Assessor’s Office, Lewiston City Hall, 27 Pine Street, Lewiston, ME 04240. Applications are reviewed and applicants notified as to approval. The City of Lewiston has also learned that last week, the State of Maine mailed applications to who they deem as qualifying seniors.

If an individual has been previously approved to participate in the program and wants to continue stabilization, a Renewal Application for Property Tax Stabilization must be annually completed and is available on the Maine Revenue Services web site at www.maine.gov/revenue/tax-return-forms/property-tax. ###