

More Elderly and Disabled Homeowners Now Qualify for the Homestead Tax Credit

More low-income senior citizens and disabled persons may be able to receive the Homestead Tax Credit for 2013 because of recent changes to the eligibility requirements.

The 2013 Legislature recently passed Senate Bill 2171 and House Bill 1015 making the credit available to more low-income elderly or disabled homeowners.

The Homestead Tax Credit is available to homeowners who are 65 years of age or older, or permanently and totally disabled. Qualified applicants receive a reduction in the property taxes on their primary residence.

The 2013 legislation increased the maximum amount of income allowed in order to qualify for the property tax credit. **The new income limit is \$42,000, after certain deductions. The previous income limit was \$26,000.**

The other change to the program includes **raising the value of assets allowed from \$75,000 to \$500,000 (which does include the value of the residence).**

The changes would take effect for the 2013 property tax statements that will be sent out this December.

Deadline to complete the application is June 21st, 2013. After that date, all applicants will need to go through the abatement process and be approved by the County Commissioners on an individual basis.

Homeowners may apply for the credit by completing the Homestead Credit Application for Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons and sending it to the County Director of Tax Equalization at 210 B Ave W Suite 303, Lakota, ND 58344-7410. For more information, please contact the Tax Director at (701) 247-2840.