

## **What exemptions can I get on my tax bill?**

**The state allows eight different exemptions for tax payers.**

**1) Homestead Limited/Owner Occupied:**

A maximum benefit of \$6,000 assessment reduction is allowed. If you qualify for this exemption but have a zero credit listed on your tax bill, this means that your current assessment is below the 1977 value, 1977 being the statutory base year.

The taxpayer must own and live in the residence as of January 1 of the assessment year. Married couples living separately can split the exemption.

**2) Senior Citizens Homestead General:**

A prorated exemption for a senior citizen that occupies the property as their principal residence after January 1 of any assessment year. There are no restrictions for married couples living separately both may

Exemption on owner-occupied residence as of Jan. 1 of the assessment year – owner must be 65 years of age on or before December 31, with a \$5,000 reduction in EAV. qualify for the exemption.

**3) Homestead Improvement:** Exemption on owner-occupied residence as of Jan. 1 of the assessment year that prevents increases in assessed valuation due to new improvements of the existing structure or its rebuilding following a catastrophic event for up to 4 years. Maximum \$ 75,000 (25,000 assessed value) in fair cash value of improvements.

**4) Disabled Veterans:** This applies when a disabled veteran owns and occupies the home, and the home has been approved for federal funds to purchase or construct special adaptations to suit the veteran's disability. This is good for up to \$70,000 in assessed valuation and is administered by the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs.

**5) Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption (SCAFHE):** This exemption abates all increases in assessed valuation from market fluctuations on the tax bill even though the actual assessed value will change annually. However, even though your assessed value may not change, your tax bill may change due to changes in the tax rate.

Taxpayer must own and occupy the property on January 1 of the year prior to application, must be 65 years of age on or before December 31 of the assessment year, and have a household income of \$65,000 or less. All income data is confidential. Married couples living separately - only one person may claim this exemption and for only one property.

- 6) **Disabled Persons Exemption:** Provides a \$2,000 reduction in a property's EAV to qualifying property owned by a disabled person. A disabled person must file an annual application to receive this exemption.
- 7) **Disabled Veterans Standard Exemption:** Provides a reduction in a property's EAV to a qualifying property owned by a veteran with a service-connected disability certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs. A \$2,500 reduction in the EAV is available to a veteran with a service-connected disability of at least 50 % but less than 69% or a \$5,000 reduction in the EAV is available to a veteran with a service-connected disability of at least 70%.
- 8) **The SHEVD (35 ILCS 200/15-169)** provides an annual reduction in the equalized assessed value (EAV) of a primary residence occupied by a veteran with a disability, or the veteran's surviving spouse, on January 1 of the assessment year. The SHEVD amount depends on the percentage of the service-connected disability as certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs.

If the veteran has a service-connected disability of 30% or more but less than 50%, then the annual exemption is \$2,500; if the veteran has a service-connected disability of 50% or more but less than 70%, then the annual exemption is \$5,000; and if the veteran has a service-connected disability of 70% or more, then the residential property is exempt from taxation under this Code.

**Owner occupied mobiles homes that pay mobile home tax may qualify for the senior exemption and/or disability. Inquire about eligibility at the Assessor's Office.**