



## Senior Legal Hotline

444 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 312 ❖ Sacramento, CA 95811

Telephone: (916) 551-2140 ❖ Toll-free: (800) 222-1753

Fax: (916) 551-2197 ❖ [www.seniorlegalhotline.org](http://www.seniorlegalhotline.org)

### SENIOR LEGAL FACT SHEET

## State assistance for senior homeowners & renters

### → Apply through Spring 2009, for payment based on 2007 income & residency

The state Franchise Tax Board generally accepts applications until June of the following year but advises that for prompt service, it's best to apply by October 15, 2008. Citizen or legal resident homeowners and renters are eligible if they met the following requirements on December 31, 2007:

- \* 62 or over, blind or disabled
- \* Household income of \$44,096 or less for 2007
- \* Owned and lived in your own home OR paid rent of at least \$50 a month

**If you qualify and apply in time, you will get a check from the state for up to \$347.50 (renters) or \$472.60 (homeowners). Higher income people who qualify will receive less.**

*(Applications for 2008, based on 2007 income and residency, will be available soon.)*

To receive an application and more information, call the Franchise Tax Board toll-free, (800) 338-0505, and ask for form 900 (homeowners) or form 9000R (renters). TTY/TDD service for hearing-impaired people is available at (800) 822-6268. Application forms, answers to many questions and local centers where forms can also be obtained from the FTB web site, <http://www.ftb.ca.gov>. Call the Senior Legal Hotline (numbers above) for more information about the forms.

**Canceled for now due to California budget crisis**

### → More important facts:

**RENTERS:** This program is separate from the state income tax renters' credit and applies whether or not you owe state income tax. You may be eligible for both programs. Unmarried individuals who share living space can apply separately for assistance. But if you live in a subsidized housing project for which no property tax is assessed, you cannot receive this assistance.

**MOBILE HOME OWNERS:** If you own the home and rent the space, you can apply for either the homeowner or the renter program, whichever provides the larger benefit for you.

**HOMEOWNERS:** If there are joint owners, only one can apply for assistance.

- ▶ Owners may also qualify for the **property tax postponement program**, under which each year's tax due becomes a loan, payable when the house is sold or out of your estate. Household limit for 2007 income is \$35,500, and you must have sufficient equity in your home. Applications are accepted May through December for the current year but extensions are sometimes possible. For an application, call the State Controller, (916) 327-5587 or (800) 952-5661. For more information, call the Senior Legal Hotline.

**If you are over 60 in California, you can get free advice by phone from the Senior Legal Hotline regarding this or any other legal issue. Call (916) 551-2140 in Sacramento or (800) 222-1753 toll-free in California, Mon.-Fri. 9 to 12 and 1 to 4, until 7 p.m. on Thursdays. Or submit your question by e-mail from our web site, [www.seniorlegalhotline.org](http://www.seniorlegalhotline.org).**

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