

SENIOR CITIZEN REAL ESTATE TAX DEFERRAL PROGRAM

This Package contains:

- **Program Overview**
- **Sample Form IL-1017,
Application and Instructions**
- **Sample Form IL-1018, Agreement**

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SENIOR CITIZENS REAL ESTATE TAX DEFERRAL PROGRAM

Program Overview

What is the Senior Citizens Real Estate Tax Deferral Program?

The Senior Citizens Real Estate Tax Deferral Program is a state program that provides tax relief for qualified senior citizens by allowing them to defer all or part of their property tax and special assessment payments on their principal residences.

The deferral is a loan against the property's market value. Deferred amounts are "borrowed" from the State of Illinois, who pays the tax bill. To ensure repayment, the county collector places a lien on the property and removes the lien when the deferred amounts are paid.

Deferred amounts are charged three percent annual simple interest. For example, a \$2,000 tax amount deferred for one year would equal interest of \$60. If not paid off in the first year, the interest would grow to \$120 at the end of the second year, \$180 at the end of the third year, and so on.

(NOTE: For tax years 2022 and prior, interest continues to accrue at a rate of six percent. The three percent interest rate applies to the 2023 tax year and any tax year thereafter.)

The annual filing period for this program is January 1 through March 1. Applicants must apply in-person at the County Treasurer's office.

How much in property taxes and special assessments can be deferred?

Taxpayers may defer all or part of their annual tax bill up to a maximum amount is \$7,500.

The maximum amount that can be deferred, including interest and lien fees, is 80 percent of the taxpayer's equity interest in the property.

When do deferred amounts have to be paid?

Deferred amounts must be repaid within one year of the taxpayer's death or 90 days after the property is sold, transferred, or otherwise no longer qualifies for this program.

The deferral may be continued by a surviving spouse who is at least 55 years of age within six months of the taxpayer's death.

No sale or transfer of property may be legally closed and recorded until all deferred amounts have been paid.

Is the property tax bill actually paid when it is due?

Yes. The county collector sends a copy of the property tax bill to the Illinois Department of Revenue. The department then sends the payment to the county collector by June 1 or within 30 days of receipt of the tax bill, whichever is later.

What qualifications must be met to participate in the program?

To participate, all of the following qualifications must be met each year:

- The taxpayer must be 65 years old by June 1 of the year that the application for deferral is being filed
- Have a total annual household income of no more than \$65,000
- Have lived in the property or other qualifying property for at least the last three years,
- Own the property, or share joint ownership with the spouse, or be the sole beneficiaries of an Illinois land trust,
- Have no delinquent property taxes or special assessments on the property
- Have adequate insurance against fire or casualty loss

What is a qualifying trust?

The property must be held in an Illinois Land Trust, with the applicant, or the applicant and spouse, identified as the sole beneficiary(s) of the trust.

The application must be filed by the beneficiary of the trust who meets all eligibility requirements and obtains the approval of the trustee to enter into the tax deferral and recovery agreement.

How does a taxpayer apply for this program?

The taxpayer must file all applications and forms with the county collector. These forms are available at the county collector's office after January 1 and must be completed by March 1 of each year. The county collector approves or denies all applications.

To apply for a property tax/special assessment deferral, the taxpayer must complete and file Form IL-1017, Application for Deferral of Real Estate/Special Assessment Taxes, and Form IL-1018, Real Estate/Special Assessment Tax Deferral and Recovery Agreement.

Form IL-1017 requires the taxpayer to provide

- certain personal identification information,
- a description of the property,
- a calculation of the total annual household income, including proof of income (1099s, etc)
- authorized signatures of the spouse, or trustee, approving the taxpayer's participation in the program, and
- evidence that the property is adequately insured against fire or casualty loss.

Form IL-1018 is the agreement for the property tax/special assessment deferral. This is an important legal document that specifies

- the maximum amount that can be deferred,
- the interest rate to be charged, and
- the arrangements for repaying the deferred property taxes.

What is included in household income?

Some examples of income that must be included in your household income are listed below.

- Alimony received
- Annuity benefits
- Black Lung benefits
- Business income
- Capital gains
- Cash assistance from Human Services and other governmental cash public assistance
- Cash winnings from such sources as raffles and lotteries
- Civil Service benefits
- Damages awarded in a lawsuit for non-physical injury or sickness
- Dividends
- Farm income
- Interest
- Interest received on life insurance policies
- Lump sum Social Security payments
- Miscellaneous income, such as from rummage sales, recycling aluminum, or baby sitting
- Monthly insurance benefits
- Pension and IRA benefits
(federally taxable portion only)
- Railroad Retirement benefits
(including Medicare deductions)
- Rental income
- SeniorCare rebate
(only if you took an itemized deduction for health insurance in the prior year)
- Social Security income
(including Medicare deductions)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits
- Unemployment compensation
- Veteran's benefits
(federally taxable portion only)
- Wages, salaries, and tips from work
- Worker's Compensation income
- Worker's Occupational Diseases Act income

What type of property is considered "qualifying property"?

Qualifying property is a homestead that

- a taxpayer, or taxpayer and spouse, own in fee simple or that is being purchased in fee simple under a recorded instrument of sale,
- is not an income-producing property, and
- is not subject to a lien for unpaid property taxes and special assessments.

"Qualifying property" includes both land and buildings such as a

- single family residence,
- condominium, or
- dwelling unit in a multi-dwelling building that is owned and operated as a cooperative.

Deferrals may continue even if the property is unoccupied because the taxpayer is temporarily residing, for not more than one year, in a nursing or sheltered care home.

Can a taxpayer defer subsequent bills for property taxes and special assessments?

Yes. A taxpayer may apply with the county collector each year for a deferral of the property taxes and special assessments payable in that year.

Can payments be made for property taxes and special assessments that are deferred before the property is sold or the property owner dies?

Yes. Any portion of the deferral can be paid at any time by the taxpayer, the taxpayer's spouse, or, if the taxpayer does not object, by other qualifying relatives, heirs, or parties that have a legal or equitable interest in the property. Contact the county collector for the exact settlement amount. Payments must be submitted to the county collector's office.

Update: Public Act 102-0895 amending the Senior Citizens Real Estate Tax Deferral Act became effective on May 23, 2022.

Do you need additional assistance?

Contact your local county collector's office if you have any questions about the deferral program or want to apply.

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Application for Deferral of Real Estate/
Special Assessment Taxes for Tax Year 2023

Applications must be filed with the county collector on or before March 1, 2024. Entering this program will result in a tax lien being placed on your homestead property and simple interest of 3 percent per year being charged on the deferred amounts.

Step 1: Eligibility information (You must be able to answer "Yes" to the following three questions to apply.)

- 1 Will you be 65 years of age or older on June 1, 2024?
2 Is your residence qualifying property as defined in the application instructions?
3 Have you owned and occupied the property listed below as your residence, or other qualifying property in Illinois, for the last 3 years, except for any periods you may have temporarily resided in a licensed nursing home?

Step 2: Applicant information

Is this the first year you have applied for the program? Yes No

Check the box that identifies the property ownership. (Check only one.) individually jointly land trust (See instructions.)

Write your homestead property index number (PIN). (See instructions.)

Your Social Security number Your date of birth Your daytime phone

Your last name Your first name Middle initial

Address of homestead property

City State ZIP County where homestead property is located

Step 3: Spouse's information (if applicable)

Spouse's Social Security number Spouse's date of birth

Spouse's last name Spouse's first name Middle initial

Step 4: Complete the following information

- 1 Calculate your household income for 2023. Use Worksheet A on the back of this application and enter your answer here.
2 Calculate your current equity interest in the homestead property. Use Worksheet B on the back of this application and enter your answer here. Note: The collector must verify that the deferral has not exceeded the amount entered on Line 2 using PTAX-1035, Annual Participant List.
3 Write the percentage (1% to 100%) OR the amount of taxes that you wish to defer. Note: The amount you defer each year cannot be more than \$7,500.

Step 5: Signatures

As the joint owner or trustee or contract-for-deed seller of the property, I give my approval to the applicant to enter into the deferral and recovery agreement.

The applicant has provided me with sufficient evidence that the qualifying property is insured against fire or casualty loss for at least the total amount of special assessments and property taxes that have been deferred.

Signature of joint owner or trustee or contract-for-deed seller Signature of collector

I declare under penalties of perjury that the information in this application is true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief and that any joint owner or trustee or contract-for-deed seller has given written approval for me to enter into the deferral and recovery agreement.

Signature of applicant Signature of preparer, if applicable

Worksheet A Calculate your household income for 2023

(Include both applicant's and spouse's income.)

1 Social Security, SSI benefits. Include Medicare deductions in this total (household total).	1	_____		_____
2 Railroad Retirement benefits. Include Medicare deductions in this total (household total).	2	_____		_____
3 Civil Service benefits (household total)	3	_____		_____
4 Annuity benefits and federally taxable pension and IRA benefits (household total)	4	_____		_____
5 Veterans' benefits (household total) (federally taxable portion only)	5	_____		_____
6 Human Services and other governmental cash public assistance benefits (household total)	6	_____		_____
7 Wages, salaries, and tips from work (household total) $\frac{\text{applicant}}{\text{applicant}} + \frac{\text{applicant's spouse}}{\text{applicant's spouse}} =$	7	_____		_____
8 Interest and dividends received (household total)	8	_____		_____
9 Net rental, farm, and business income or (loss). Do not include any loss carryover. Attach U.S. 1040 for loss.	9	_____		_____
10 Net capital gain or (loss). Do not include any loss carryover. Attach U.S. 1040 U.S. 1040A for loss.	10	_____		_____
11 Other income or (loss). Do not include any loss carryover. Attach U.S. 1040 or U.S. 1040A for loss.	11	_____		_____
12 Add Lines 1 through 11.	12	_____		_____
13 Certain subtractions — You may subtract only the reported adjustments to income totaled on U.S. 1040, Line 37, or U.S. 1040A, Line 21. (Specify: _____)	13	_____		_____
14 Subtract Line 13 from Line 12, and write the result. This is your total income for 2023. If Line 14 is greater than \$65,000, STOP . You do not qualify for this program. If Line 14 is \$65,000 or less, write the result in Step 4, Line 1 on the front of this application.	14	_____		_____

Worksheet B Calculate your 80% equity interest

Step 1: Write the market value

1 Write the market value of the homestead property. (See instructions.) \$ _____ | _____

Step 2: Total the subtractions

2 Write the subtractions for the following:

a balance owed on the current mortgage.	\$ _____ _____
b balance owed on any second mortgages.	\$ _____ _____
c balance owed on any home equity loans.	\$ _____ _____
d total home equity amount reserved for use under a reverse mortgage arrangement. (See Note 1.)	\$ _____ _____
e balance of liens or encumbrances against the property, including previous deferral amounts .	\$ _____ _____
f balance of any other loan or line of credit where the deferred property is being used as collateral on the loan.	\$ _____ _____

3 Total subtractions (Add Lines 2a through 2f.) \$ _____ | _____

Step 3: Calculate the equity that can be deferred

4 Determine the current equity interest in the homestead property. (Subtract Line 3 from Line 1.) \$ _____ | _____

5 Multiply Line 4 by 80 percent (0.80), and write the result here and in Step 4, Line 2 on the front of this application. (See Note 2.) \$ _____ | _____

Note 1: If you have a reverse mortgage arrangement, you should verify with your lender whether your agreement allows you to participate in the Tax Deferral Program.

Note 2: The collector must verify that the total deferral for the applicant (including all previous deferrals) has not exceeded the 80% equity interest using PTAX-1035, Annual Participant List.

IL-1017 General Information

General Information

What is the Senior Citizens Real Estate Tax Deferral?

The Senior Citizens Real Estate Tax Deferral Act, 320 ILCS 30/1, *et seq.*, allows qualified senior citizens to elect to defer all or part of the property taxes and special assessments on their principal residences. The principal residence is the homestead portion of the property and is the only portion of the property for which you can apply for deferral of taxes. The property taxes and special assessments do not become due until after the death of the property owner or when the real estate is sold or no longer qualifies. A lien is placed on the property and interest is assessed at three percent simple interest rate per year.

This application applies to taxes that will be paid in 2024.

Who is eligible?

To qualify for the tax deferral you must

- be 65 years of age or older by June 1, 2024,
- have a total household income of no more than \$65,000,
- have lived in the property or other qualifying property for at least the last three years,
- own the property, or share joint ownership with your spouse, or you and your spouse be the sole beneficiaries of an Illinois land trust,
- have adequate insurance against fire or casualty loss, and
- have no unpaid property taxes and special assessments on the property.

What is included in household income?

You must include items that are considered income for 2023 federal income tax purposes. Examples are:

- alimony received
- annuity benefits
- Black Lung benefits
- business income
- capital gains
- cash assistance from Human Services and other governmental cash public assistance
- cash winnings from such sources as raffles and lotteries
- Civil Service benefits
- damages awarded in a lawsuit for nonphysical injury or sickness
- dividends
- farm income
- interest
- interest received on life insurance policies
- lump sum Social Security payments

- miscellaneous income, such as from rummage sales, recycling aluminum, or baby sitting
- monthly insurance benefits
- pension and IRA benefits (federally taxable portion only)
- qualified long term care insurance contract payments (federally taxable portion only)
- Railroad Retirement benefits (including Medicare deductions)
- rental income
- SeniorCare rebate (only if you took an itemized deduction for health insurance in the prior year)
- Social Security income (including Medicare deductions)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits
- unemployment compensation
- veterans' benefits (federally taxable portion only)
- wages, salaries, and tips from work
- Workers' Compensation Act income
- Workers' Occupational Diseases Act income

What if I have a net operating loss or capital loss carryover from a previous year?

You cannot include any carryover of net operating loss or capital loss from a previous year. You can include only a net operating loss or capital loss that occurred in 2023.

What is a homestead?

Homestead means the land, and buildings on that land, owned and occupied as your principal residence. This includes a condominium or a dwelling unit in a multi-dwelling building that is owned and operated as a cooperative. In addition, a homestead may be temporarily unoccupied because you were temporarily residing (for not more than one year) in a licensed facility as defined in Section 1-113 of the Nursing Home Care Act, 210 ILCS 45/1-101, *et seq.*

What is qualifying property?

Qualifying property is a homestead that

- you, or you and your spouse, own in fee simple, or are purchasing in fee simple under a recorded instrument of sale, or are the sole beneficiaries of a Illinois land trust,
- is not income-producing property, and
- is not subject to a lien for unpaid property taxes and special assessments.

When must I file?

This application must be filed on or before **March 1, 2024**, with the county collector.

IL-1017 Specific Instructions

Specific Instructions

Step 1: Eligibility information

- You must be able to answer “Yes” to all three questions to apply for the tax deferral.

Step 2: Applicant information

- Tell us if this is the first year you have applied for the program.
- Check the applicable box identifying property ownership. If the property is in an Illinois land trust, the trustee must sign the application and the applicant must be the first tier beneficiary of the trust.
- Write your homestead property index number (PIN). Your PIN is listed on your property tax bill or you may obtain it from the chief county assessment officer (CCAO). If you are unable to obtain your PIN, write the legal description of the homestead property on a separate sheet and **attach** it to your application.
- Write your
 - Social Security number,
 - date of birth,
 - daytime phone number,
 - name,
 - mailing address, and
 - county where the homestead property is located.

Step 3: Spouse’s information

- If applicable, write your spouse’s
 - Social Security number,
 - date of birth, and
 - name.

Step 4: Complete the following information

Line 1 — Use Worksheet A to calculate your household income for 2023.

Line 2 — Use Worksheet B to calculate your current equity interest in the homestead property.

Line 3 — Write the percentage (1% to 100%) or amount of taxes that you wish to defer. The maximum amount that can be deferred each year is \$7,500.

Step 5 : Signatures

- If your homestead is jointly owned, the joint owner must sign and date the application. You may be required to provide proof of ownership, such as a copy of the deed.

- If the homestead is in a land trust, the signature of the trustee must be provided. You may be required to provide proof that you are the sole beneficiary, or that you and your spouse are the sole beneficiaries of the land trust.
- If you are purchasing property as “Contract for Deed,” the signature of the seller must be provided. You may be required to provide proof that the contract is a publicly recorded instrument.
- You must provide evidence to the county collector that your homestead property is insured against fire or casualty loss for at least the total amount of property taxes and special assessments that have been deferred.

The collector must sign and date this application.

You must sign and date the application. In addition, you must complete Form IL-1018, Real Estate/Special Assessment Tax Deferral and Recovery Agreement, at the time you file this application. This is an agreement that must be entered into with the county collector.

If this application was prepared by a tax preparer, the preparer must sign and date the application.

Worksheet B Instructions

Step 1: Write the market value

Line 1 — Write the market value of the homestead property. This calculation is based on the current assessed value of the property times the fraction necessary to convert that figure to the full market value. If your residence does not have a separate assessed value (*i.e.*, a newly constructed home that has not received an assessment yet), write the market value of the land and buildings as of December 31, 2023, as stated on an appraisal completed by a qualified real estate appraiser. You must attach an appraisal to your application if the amount entered in Step 1 is different than the currently recorded assessed value.

Step 2: Total the subtractions

If there are any subtractions in Step 2, write the name and address of the creditor on a separate sheet and **attach** it to your application.

Note: The total amount of property taxes deferred, including special assessments deferred, plus interest, cannot exceed 80 percent of your equity in your homestead property.



IL-1018 Real Estate/Special Assessment Tax Deferral and Recovery Agreement for Tax Year 2023

Name of owners:

Last First Middle initial

Last First Middle initial

Write the homestead property index number (PIN). _____

Write the legal description of the homestead property. Attach additional sheets if needed.

I, the owner and applicant, agree:

- 1 that the total amount of property taxes, including special assessments, deferred under the Senior Citizens Real Estate Tax Deferral Act, 320 ILCS 30/1, *et seq.*, plus interest, for the year for which a deferral is claimed, as well as for those previous years for which the property taxes, including special assessments, are not delinquent and for which such deferral has been claimed may not exceed 80 percent of my equity interest in the property for which property taxes, including special assessments, are to be deferred and that, if the total deferred property taxes, including special assessments, plus interest, equals 80 percent of my equity interest in the property, I shall thereafter pay the annual interest due on such deferred property taxes, including special assessments, plus interest, so that total deferred property taxes, including special assessments, plus interest, will not exceed such 80 percent of my equity interest in the property.
- 2 that any property taxes, including special assessments, deferred under the Act and any interest accrued thereon at the rate of 3 percent per year, are a lien on the real estate and improvements thereon until paid. **No sale or transfer of such real property may be legally closed and recorded until the property taxes, including special assessments, which would otherwise have been due on the property, plus accrued interest, have been paid unless the collector certifies in writing that an arrangement for prompt payment of the amount due has been made with his or her office. The same shall apply if the property is to be made the subject of a contract of sale.**
- 3 that upon my death, the heirs-at-law, assignees, or legatees shall have first priority to the real property upon which property taxes, including special assessments, have been deferred by paying in full the total property taxes, including special assessments, that would otherwise have been due, plus interest. However, if such heir-at-law, assignee, or legatee is my surviving spouse, the deferred status of the property shall be continued during the life of my surviving spouse if the spouse is 55 years of age or older within six months of the date of my death and my spouse enters into a deferral and recovery agreement before the time when deferred property taxes, including special assessments, become due under Section 3 of the Act. Any additional deferred property taxes, including special assessments, plus interest, on the real property under a deferral and recovery agreement signed by my surviving spouse shall be added to the property taxes, including special assessments, and interest which would otherwise have been due, and the payment of which has been postponed during the life of my surviving spouse, in determining the 80 percent equity requirement provided by this Section.

