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FAMILIES, FRIENDS URGED TO DISCUSS PROPERTY TAX/RENT REBATE PROGRAM AS DEADLINE APPROACHES

Harrisburg – Families and friends gathering during the holiday season are urged to remind older friends and relatives about Pennsylvania’s Property Tax/Rent Program and recent program changes that extend eligibility to more residents.

Two changes this year opened program eligibility to populations previously ineligible to receive rebates:

- Beginning with claim year 2013, the Department of Revenue will pay property tax and rent rebate claims filed on behalf of claimants who lived at least one day during a claim year and meet all other eligibility criteria. Such claims can be filed by spouses, personal representatives or estates, on behalf of deceased claimants.
- Income eligibility guidelines for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program have changed so that income increases due solely to Social Security cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) will no longer disqualify claimants from receiving rebates. As a result, any homeowner who collected Social Security, received a property tax rebate in 2013 for claim year 2012 and had annual income last year – discounting half of Social Security – up to \$35,595, is encouraged to apply for a rebate for claim year 2013. Any renter who collected Social Security, received a rent rebate in 2013 for claim year 2012 and had annual income last year – discounting half of Social Security – up to \$15,255, is also encouraged to apply.

Applicants have until Dec. 31, the date by which applications must be postmarked, to apply for rebates of up to \$975 on property tax or rent paid in 2013.

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FAST FACT:

Transitioning business taxes into the integrated tax system (ITS) in mid-November brought 620,000 new taxpayer records and one million monthly transactions into the ITS.

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It costs nothing to apply for a rebate. Applications and free filing help are available at hundreds of locations across the state, including Department of Revenue district offices, local Area Agencies on Aging, senior centers and state legislators' offices.

Property Tax/Rent Rebate claim forms (PA-1000) and information are also available online at www.revenue.pa.gov and by calling, toll free, 1-888-222-9190, between 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

To speed processing, claimants are reminded to provide all required income, property tax or rent information.

Last year, more than 588,000 households received more than \$279 million in rebates. So far this year, more than 596,000 households have applied for rebates. As of mid-November, rebates totaling \$269.8 million have been sent to more than 566,000 homeowners and renters.

About the Property Tax and Rent Rebate Program:

The Property Tax and Rent Rebate Program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians age 65 and older; widows and widowers age 50 and older; and people with disabilities age 18 and older. The income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters, and half of Social Security income is excluded.

The maximum standard rebate is \$650, but supplemental rebates for qualifying homeowners can boost rebates to \$975. The Revenue Department automatically calculates supplemental rebates for qualifying homeowners.

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is one of five programs supported by the Pennsylvania Lottery. Since the program's 1971 inception, older and disabled adults have received more than \$5.6 billion in property tax and rent relief. The expanded portion of the rebate program is paid for with revenue from slots gaming.

BUSINESS TAXES TRANSITION TO THE INTEGRATED TAX SYSTEM, E-TIDES FUNCTIONALITY UPGRADES IN COMING WEEKS

The Department of Revenue has reached another milestone in its efforts to modernize its technological infrastructure this fall, by transitioning the following taxes and administrative functions into the Integrated Tax System (ITS), effective Nov. 17:

- Sales, use and hotel occupancy tax
- Employer withholding
- Malt beverage tax
- Vehicle rental tax and Public Transportation Assistance Fund taxes/fees
- Small games of chance
- Cigarette and unstampable little cigar tax

Enhanced e-TIDES, TeleFile and Payment Functionality

In December, e-TIDES functionality will be expanded to include real-time registration, return filing and payment processing for Public Transportation Assistance Fund taxes and fees (PA-4) and vehicle rental tax (PA-5 and DAS-28). Such taxpayers may also use e-TIDES to perform regular account maintenance for changes to their bank account information, FEIN, address, legal/trade name and to cancel an account through e-TIDES.

The TeleFile system will be expanded to include acceptance of PA-5 returns and payments; payments for unstampable little cigar tax and malt beverage tax; and notice/liability payments for all taxes in the ITS.

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Payments for Public Transportation Assistance Fund taxes and fees, vehicle rental tax, unstampable little cigar tax and malt beverage tax can be made by credit or debit card as of Nov. 17, as can notice/liability payments for all tax types in the ITS.

NOTE: Temporary and alphanumeric Entity ID numbers no longer be used to access the department's electronic filing and payment systems. The following account identifiers are accepted in these systems:

- PA Account ID Number
- Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN)
- Social Security Number (SSN)
- Revenue ID Number (new 10-digit number)

Corporation tax accounts can also use a Department of State number in e-TIDES.

Account Numbers and Revenue ID

While entities may notice a new Revenue ID number appearing on correspondence from the department, the license and account numbers business tax accounts are already familiar with will not change and will remain the primary identifiers in the new system.

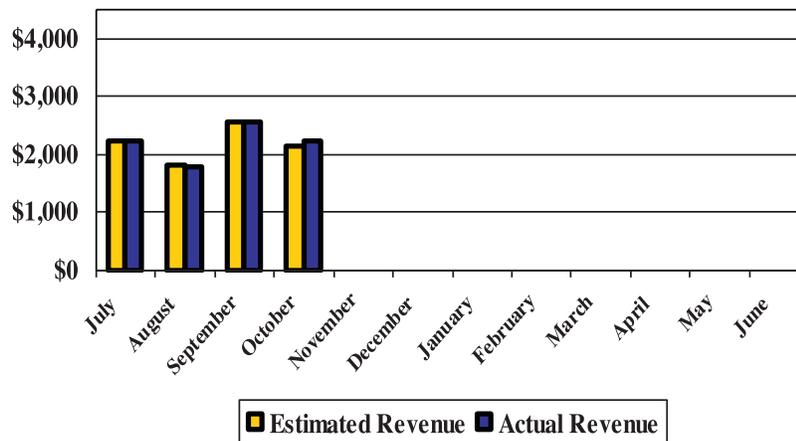
Correspondence Changes

Taxpayers and practitioners will also notice changes to the format and style of correspondence from the department. Correspondence for the above taxes will more closely resemble correspondence produced for corporation taxes.

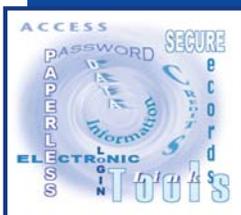
2014-2015 General Fund Revenues

Estimated versus Actual Revenue Collections (in millions)

Fiscal year-to-date General Fund collections, through October totaled \$8.9 billion, which is \$103.4 million, or 1.2 percent, above estimate.



TAX PROFESSIONAL E-SERVICES CENTER



Tax professionals are encouraged to use the department's Tax Professional e-Services Center for access to clients' tax information.

Visit the department's [Online Customer Service Center](#) or call 717-787-1392.