State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

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Homestead Benefit Deadline Extended to Expand Access to Popular Property Tax Relief Program

TRENTON – To ensure as many New Jerseyans as possible have the opportunity to obtain property tax relief, the Christie Administration has extended the deadline for filing Homestead Benefit applications to Thursday, Dec. 31, 2015.

The previous deadline was Friday, Oct. 30. The Treasury Department's Division of Taxation has mailed out more than 1.28 million applications to homeowners for the Homestead Benefit program for calendar year 2013.

"At this point, the Division has not received all of the applications it expects will be filed for calendar year 2013, and it is unlikely that all eligible filers will meet the Oct. 30 deadline," Acting State Treasurer Robert A. Romano said. "By extending the application deadline to Dec. 31, we will give those who might have missed out the chance to apply and receive their benefit in 2016."

The 2012 Homestead Benefit program paid more than $369 million in benefits to 785,517 homeowners. On average, each taxpayer received a benefit of $469.82.

To be eligible for a benefit for calendar year 2013, you must be a New Jersey resident who owned a principal residence on Oct. 1, 2013, and paid property taxes on that home. You must also have reported $75,000 or less in New Jersey gross income for 2013 or, if you were disabled or age 65 or older on Dec. 31, 2013, you must have reported gross income for 2013 of $150,000 or less.

The extended deadline for all homeowners to file is Thursday, Dec. 31, 2015.

For more information on the Homestead Benefit Program, homeowners may call the Division of Taxation's Homestead Benefit Hotline at **1-888-238-1233** from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.,

Monday through Friday. Homestead benefit information is also available on the Division's website at www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/homestead/geninf.shtml and through its Automated Tax Information System at **1-800-323-4400.** Text telephone service for the hearing impaired is provided at **1-800-286-6613** or **609-984-7300.**

Homeowners should read the instructions and complete the worksheet in their application packet before attempting to file. **Anyone who has sold their home recently or is preparing to sell their home should read the instructions carefully to avoid missing out on the Homestead Benefit.**

Homeowners can file online at: www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/ or by phone at **1-877-658-2972.**

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