

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## Real Estate Tax Relief for Disabled or Senior Citizens

SUFFOLK, VA (January 4, 2009) The Department of Social Services is coordinating the City of Suffolk Real Estate Tax Relief for Disabled or Senior Citizens for the 2009-2010 tax year. This program is income based for individuals over the age of 65 or totally disabled.

Tax relief is granted on an annual basis and a new application or certification must be filed each year. To be eligible for the program, one must apply after January 1<sup>st</sup> each year with the deadline for application set on June 30<sup>th</sup>. If you are eligible, relief will be applied to your real estate bills due on December 5<sup>th</sup> and June 5<sup>th</sup> of the following year.

Basic requirements for this program are:

- Must be 65 years of age or older or permanently and totally disabled.
- Must be owners or partial owners and must occupy the property to be exempted.
- Combined gross income of owners and any relatives living in the property cannot exceed \$51,659 (The first \$10,000 of a relative's income is exempted.)

-Net worth, exclusive of the home and up to 10 acres upon which it is situated, cannot exceed \$231,525.

-Applications must be filed no later than June 30<sup>th</sup> of the taxable year.

The percentage of tax relief allowed is based on the combined income of the owners and any relatives living in the property (excluding up to \$10,000 per relative living in the dwelling).

<u>Combined Income</u>	<u>% of Tax Relieved</u>
\$ 0 - \$39,504	100%
\$39,505 - \$45,582	50%
\$45,583 - \$51,659	25%

Examples of income include wages, Social Security, annuities, pensions, disability income, interest, dividends, business income, farm income, income from rental property, and income from roomers and boarders.

Also, the applicant's net worth cannot exceed \$231,525. The applicant's home and up to 10 acres the home is situated on is not counted in the applicant's net worth. Examples of resources include real estate other than the residence, bank accounts, trusts, certificates of deposit, stocks, bonds, cash value of life insurance policies, and the value of personal property such as automobiles.

To apply, call the Department of Social Services at 514-4870 to discuss the application or recertification process. Applicants can also e-mail the department at [taxrelief@city.suffolk.va.us](mailto:taxrelief@city.suffolk.va.us) requesting follow up. The applicant must supply

documentation about his/her income and resources and must sign an affidavit confirming the accuracy of all the information.

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