

In light of new legislation by the New York State, we are reaching out to you with important information regarding changes to the STAR program. As a measure to decrease fraud and inappropriate exemptions, the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance is requiring homeowners to complete a one-time re-registration process before December 31st of this year.

New York is in the process of mailing out letters to all current STAR program participants with information regarding this one-time re-registration. The majority of residents in Western New York are scheduled to receive their letters the week of August 26th. For the schedule of mailing by counties, please visit: tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star13/mailing.pdf.

You do not need to wait for your letter to register! Follow the steps below to register online or by telephone.

Who does this apply to?

- Those who already participate in the NY Basic STAR program.
- New York State residents with owner-occupied primary residences in New York State.
- Residence owners and their spouses must have a combined income of less than \$500,000.
- Married couples are only eligible for one Basic STAR exemption, even if they have multiple residences.

What if I received Enhanced STAR?

- Senior citizens in the Enhanced STAR program are NOT impacted.
- Seniors must continue to apply annually for the Enhanced STAR program or they must participate in the Income Verification Program.

What do I need to do?

one-time online registration

- Visit tax.ny.gov and click 'Register for STAR' on the home page.
- Click the 'Register Online' button.
- If you have not yet received your letter with your STAR code, you may click on the blue link to look it up during the registration process.
- You will need the Property Owner(s)' Social Security Number and will be asked to verify property, residency and income information.
- Once you click through all of the steps, you will be asked to verify and submit the application. Once submitted, the system will allow you to print a copy for your records.

one-time telephone registration

- You may call 518-457-2036 to register.
- Be sure to have Social Security Numbers handy for the residence owner and spouse.

Will I need to register each year?

- No, for the Basic STAR program, this one-time online registration will provide the information necessary for your eligibility to be verified automatically each year going forward, starting with 2014.

- Remember, this only applies to the Basic STAR program.

We hope that you will find the information above to be helpful and timely. Should you have any questions or need further information, please contact our office.

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