

Supervisor of Assessment Ford County, IL

SENIOR CITIZENS ASSESSMENT FREEZE HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION (SCAFHE)

To be eligible for this exemption, you must be 65 years old and apply for the Senior Citizens Homestead Exemption first. You may apply anytime during the year in which you turn 65. You do not have to wait until after your 65th birthday to apply.

This is an income based exemption. Your entire household income must be \$55,000 or less. By statute, household income includes all persons who live in or on your property regardless of whether or not they have ownership interest in the property. At this time the full amount of social security you received must be included, not just the taxable amount reported on your income tax return. The income is from the previous year. When filling out the paperwork for the current assessment, use the income from the income tax form that you file in the spring, which is the income from the year before.

The exemption for the current assessment year will appear on the tax bill that comes out the next year.

EXAMPLE:

Use the 2015 income on the 2016 exemption form for the 2016 tax bill that is sent to you in 2017.

When you first qualify for the assessment freeze, you will establish your base value. If your assessment is increased due to increased market value of your property, the increase will be subtracted to reduce your taxable value back to the base amount. If your assessment is increased because of an improvement to your property such as an addition, new porch, new garage, etc., you will receive a home improvement exemption for four years. When the home improvement exemption expires the base amount of your freeze will be increased to reflect this new improvement and you will begin paying taxes on the new improvement to the property.

This exemption freezes the assessed value of your property, it does not freeze the amount of your taxes. The amount of your property taxes will vary due to changes in the tax rate.