

AVAILABLE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF - Exemptions reduce the Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV) by a specific amount; the actual tax savings depends on the tax rate for the specific property. In all cases, these **exemptions apply only to the taxpayer's principal residence**:

The Owner Occupied Exemption reduces the final equalized assessed value by up to \$5,500. This is the same as the General Homestead Exemption. Contact the Supervisor of Assessment for application. (35 ILCS 200/15-175)

The Senior Citizen Exemption reduces the EAV of a senior (age 65 or older during the assessment year) owned and occupied dwelling by \$4,000. Application must be made at the Supervisor of Assessment Office. (35 ILCS 200/15-170)

The Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze Exemption freezes the base year EAV of a senior owned and occupied dwelling with a household income of \$55,000 or less for the prior year. Applications must be submitted **annually** to the Supervisor of Assessment. (35 ILCS 200/15-172)

The Home Improvement Exemption reduces the EAV of an owner-occupied dwelling with a qualifying property improvement. EAV reductions are limited by statute. Applications are handled by the Supervisor of Assessment Office. (35 ILCS 200/15-180)

The Senior Citizen Real Estate Tax Deferral permits the deferral of payment of real estate taxes. The deferred taxes become a lien on the property to be paid at a later date. Age requirement is 65 or over with annual income of \$50,000 or less. The owner must apply by March 1 **every year** with the County Treasurer. (320 ILCS 30/1 et seq.)

The Circuit Breaker Grant provides low-income senior and disabled citizens yearly grants to help pay property taxes and pharmaceuticals. Eligibility is based on income level and disability status. For more information, contact Menard County Community Services at (217)632-4412.

The Returning Veterans' Homestead Exemption provides a one-time \$5,000 additional reduction in the EAV to a qualifying veteran's principal residence for the taxable year the veteran returns from active duty in an armed conflict involving the U.S. The veteran must file form PTAX-341 with the Supervisor of Assessment after returning home. (35 ILCS 200/15-167)

A **disabled person's or veteran's** property can receive only one of the following exemptions each year:

The Disabled Persons' Homestead Exemption provides a \$2,000 additional reduction in the EAV to a qualifying property owned by a disabled person. Form PTAX-343 must be filed **annually** with the Supervisor of Assessment. (35 ILCS 200/15-168), or

The Disabled Veterans Standard Homestead Exemption reduces the EAV on qualifying property owned by a veteran with a service-related disability, certified by the Dept. of Veterans' Affairs. Form PTAX-342(R) must be filled **annually** with the Supervisor of Assessment to continue to receive this exemption. (35 ILCS 200/15-169), or

The Disabled Veterans Exemption reduces the EAV of a **federally-approved specially-adapted home** owned by a qualifying veteran, the veteran's spouse or unmarried surviving spouse. To determine eligibility and apply, contact the Department of Veteran Affairs. (35 ILCS 200/15-165)