

In New York State there are potentially two major property tax savings programs.

- The Enhanced STAR program
- The senior citizens exemption

Most of you already know about the Enhanced STAR program through New York State that helps to reduce your property taxes. The Income Verification Program is a way to speed up and simplify this process from year to year. Although you have had the option to join this program for years, beginning in 2019, you are now required to participate in this program to receive your enhanced STAR eligibility.

The Income Verification Program requires you to complete a Form RP-425-IVP in addition to your regular STAR application. This program allows you to provide your tax forms and application only one time and does not require annual renewal.

In the first year you will provide the forms to your assessor and they will determine your eligibility. Going forward the Tax Department will review your annual income and notify the assessor of your eligibility and you will no longer need to complete those forms every year.

Different from the Enhanced Star program, the senior citizens exemption is an exemption for those who are 65 or older and make \$29,000 or less per year. This benefit could reduce your property taxes by 50%.

Since the application for this exemption was previously combined with the Enhanced STAR application, anyone who receives the senior citizens exemption will also need to complete Form RP-467-Rnw (RP-467 for new applicants). Unlike the Enhanced STAR application, the senior citizens exemption application does still need to be completed and submitted annually.

Please contact your tax assessor's office for forms, exact income requirements, and due dates.

We understand that all of this can be a bit confusing at times, so please reach out to us if we can help in any way.