

Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze Information

Property owners age 65 and older who have total household incomes of \$65,000 or less are encouraged to apply for the Senior Citizen's Assessment Freeze. This program may reduce your property tax bill by freezing the equalized assessed value of your property, which impacts the total tax you pay. It does NOT freeze your taxes, but it protects you from tax increases due to rising property values. Even if you have applied for and been granted the freeze exemption in prior years, you must renew your application annually.

All Lake County residents who have a Senior Homestead Exemption will receive a letter in the mail in mid-March with information about the program.

Who Should Apply

To apply for the senior freeze exemption, the applicant must:

- Be 65 years or older
- Have a total household income of \$65,000 or less for 2019
- Have owned and occupied the home on Jan. 1, 2019 and Jan. 1, 2020

How to Apply:

In 2020, all applications must be submitted online

- Have a copy of your 2019 tax return handy, as well as your property PIN number
- Go to the Chief County Assessment Office [Smart E-Filing Portal](http://www.assessor.lakecountylil.gov) at www.assessor.lakecountylil.gov
- Log in to your account, create a new account, or log in as a guest
- Click "Available Filings" and choose "EX – Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption"
- Click "Begin Filing"
- Enter the tax year, 2020, and your property PIN, and follow the instructions
- Note that while you do not need to submit proof of income, the Chief County Assessment Office may ask for additional information from you when reviewing your application.
- If the property is owned in trust, proof of beneficiary of the trust may also be required.

Where to Get Help Completing the Online Application:

- Call or visit the Lake County Assessor Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., 847-377-2050; 18 N. County St., Waukegan, 7th Floor
- Call or visit your [local township assessor's office](#)
- Attend a Senior Freeze Assistance Day event at the University Center of Lake County, 1200 University Center Drive, Grayslake
 - Wednesday, April 22, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 - Friday, April 24, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 - Wednesday, April 29, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.