



First Time Enhanced STAR Exemption

Dear Enhanced STAR Applicant:

This is the Enhanced STAR application. As a first time applicant you will be required to supply proof of age for all owners and spouses of owners residing on the property. You or your spouse must be age 65 by December 31, 2016. We encourage you to **mail** in your application with documentation to avoid the long lines.

PLEASE READ ALL DIRECTIONS AND QUESTIONS CAREFULLY. Include a copy of page 1 from your **2014** Federal or New York State Income tax returns if you file a return. If you do not file tax returns, you must submit all **2014** income statements to verify income. To qualify for the Enhanced STAR exemption, the **2014** Federal Adjusted Gross Income minus taxable IRA distributions for all owner(s) and spouse(s) must be **\$84,550** or less. If your income exceeds that amount you will still be eligible to obtain the Basic STAR exemption if you continue to live on the property. **Please note that New York State legislation has added a Cost of Living Adjustment that will annually be applied to the maximum income limit.**

You should have already received the **2014** year end statements and tax return which you need to file with your application. Your completed STAR application should be returned soon to avoid processing delays. **The application must be returned no later than February 1, 2016.** You will receive a written notice from this Bureau if you qualify, or not qualify, for the Enhanced STAR exemption.

Starting in 2016, you may authorize this Bureau to transmit your Social Security number(s) to the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance (DTF) for verification of reported income. If you choose this option and the DTF qualifies your income, you will no longer be required to submit paper documentation to this Bureau in future years. You must continue to reside on the property to qualify for the exemption. Please indicate your preference in this area on the application. Even if you choose this option, you must submit the paperwork requested this year. You will not receive a renewal notice in **2016.**

As always, the Assessment staff is available to help you. Please call the **Exemption Hotline at 585-428-6994**, Monday through Friday, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

Thomas G. Huonker
City Assessor





City of Rochester, New York

ENHANCED STAR EXEMPTION 2016-2017 FIRST TIME APPLICATION

MAIL APPLICATION BY: _____
THE LAST LEGAL DATE TO FILE AN APPLICATION IS MONDAY
FEBRUARY 1, 2016

Was the 2014 Federal Adjusted Gross Income minus taxable IRA distributions for all owner(s) and spouse(s) \$84,550.00 or less?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Did applicant(s) and spouse(s) file for 2014: Federal Income Tax Return?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (see #1)	<input type="checkbox"/> No (see #2)
New York State Return?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (see #1)	<input type="checkbox"/> No (see #2)
<p>1. If YES for either, attach a copy of page 1 of your returns.</p> <p>2. If NO, submit all 2014 income statements (1099's, Social Security, interest, etc.).</p> <p>Please provide proof that all owners will be at least age 65 by December 31, 2016. Only one owner needs to be age 65 if husband and wife or siblings.</p> <p>Please provide proof of residence if your mail is not delivered to the property applied for. (A copy of a recent driver's license, voter's registration card, passport, or a cable television or telephone bill.)</p>		
YES <input type="checkbox"/> Does at least one of the property owners use the property as their legal residence?		
NO <input type="checkbox"/> (If NO, please explain on back of form.)		
YES <input type="checkbox"/> Is there another person the City should contact if we have any questions regarding your application?		
NO <input type="checkbox"/> Name _____ Telephone # _____		
e-mail: _____		

IMPORTANT NOTICE: ALL OWNERS AND SPOUSES MUST SIGN THIS APPLICATION

**** YOU MUST FILE A 2014 NY STATE INCOME TAX RETURN TO USE THIS OPTION ****

In the Fall of 2016 you will be able to renew your Enhanced STAR Exemption without submitting any paperwork. Please indicate below if you wish to have the City of Rochester Assessor contact the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance to verify your income for the next exemption period. The Social Security numbers that you provide in the certification area of this form will be used for that purpose. Please be assured that the utmost security and confidentiality will be observed in the use of those Social Security numbers.

_____ Yes, please use my/our Social Security numbers to verify income eligibility for future years.

_____ No, do not use my/our Social Security numbers to verify income eligibility.
I/we will submit all income tax returns and earnings statements annually.

OVER 
START

NOTE:

You can only have one STAR exemption in New York State and you cannot apply for or receive a residency or homestead exemption from any other state.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: ALL OWNERS AND SPOUSES MUST SIGN THIS APPLICATION

I certify that all the above information is correct and that the property listed above is my primary residence. I understand it is my obligation to notify the assessor if I relocate to another primary residence and to provide any documentation of eligibility that is requested. I understand that any misrepresentation of primary residence, age or income shall be subject to a \$100 penalty, result in the inability to receive the STAR exemption for five years and may be subject to criminal prosecution.

SIGNATURE(S)

DATE

TELEPHONE #

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

X _____ - -
YOUR SIGNATURE

X _____ - -
SPOUSE'S OR OTHER OWNER'S SIGNATURE

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS,
PLEASE CALL: 585-428-6994**

Please use the City of Rochester
enclosed envelope Bureau of Assessment
and mail to: 30 Church Street, Room 101A
Rochester, NY 14614

**YOU MUST RETURN THE ORIGINAL SIGNED
FORM WITH PROOF OF INCOME BEFORE
WE CAN PROCESS YOUR APPLICATION.**