Enhanced STAR New Procedure

As we know there are major changes happening with the Enhanced STAR program. I am going to try and clarify these changes. I am going to break this down by the different groups of people who receive or are about to receive the Enhanced STAR exemption.

The first group is those property owners who have the Enhanced STAR exemption and receive a green post card that that begins with “Dear Homeowner: we are pleased to inform you that the NYS DTF has determined that you satisfy the income requirements...” This is the easiest group. If the owner receives the green card it means that at one time, in the past, they applied for the Income Verification Program (IVP) and their income is already being checked by the DTF.

These people are all set and do not have complete forms at this time. The only thing that I want to point out is that if NYS DTF has any questions regarding income or if the income goes over the limit the owner will get a notification directly from NYS DTF requesting more information or alerting them that their exemption has been reduced to a Basic STAR or removed completely. DTF will provide them with information as to how to appeal their decision if it is felt the decision was made in error.

The next group is the owners who have the Enhanced STAR and are currently required to complete a renewal application and provide income each year. For this coming year, these people will be required to do the same. They will supply me with (RP-425-Rnw) Enhanced STAR Renewal and a copy of the 2017 NYS or Federal Income tax return or (RP-425-Wkst) Income Worksheet but now, they will be required to complete and return the Income Verification Program application (RP-425-IVP) as well. I will mail the IVP form along with the renewal application a little later in the year.

I will grant or deny the Enhanced STAR exemption based upon the income provided to me with the application. I will also take the information provided on the Income Verification Program (IVP) form and key it into the NYS DTF program. After this is done NYS begins to recheck the income information provided.

If NYS DTF finds a discrepancy, they will either remove the Enhanced STAR or Add an Enhanced STAR and then notify the owner. If the discovery occurs after school bills are generated, NYS DTF will either send a bill in the amount of the exemption that was granted or if the owner were denied and they find the exemption should have been granted, they will send a check in that amount.

**It is VERY IMPORTANT** that I receive everyone’s information on time! I have to key the IVP information and NYS will close the system on a certain date. If the owner does not provide me with the documents on time the exemption will automatically be reduced to a Basic STAR. So remember, if the home owner goes south and does not provide me with the documents required the exemption will be reduced to a Basic STAR. I recommend copies of income be made now, take the documents with you or have someone who can obtain the documents for you. Every year I have numerous people tell me they are away from home. We do this every year so please try to remember to be prepared.

The next group is those who are receiving Basic STAR and will be turning 65 during the year. They will need to complete the (RP-425-E) Enhanced STAR application, the (RP-425-IVP) Income Verification Program application and provide income which will be 2017 NYS or Federal Income Tax return or (RP-425-Wkst) Worksheet. The same process occurs as above. All documents must be to me by March 1, 2019.

The final group will be those who, in the past have received the Sr. Low Income exemption as well as the Enhanced STAR. In the past, there was one form (RP-467-Rnw) that would renew both exemptions. This has now changed. There will be the same forms as mentioned, the Enhanced STAR renewal application, the IVP application and 2017 income which is either NYS or Federal income tax or the completed income worksheet with documentation. The same will apply, I will review and grant or deny the Enhanced STAR and then NYS will review your income based on your social security numbers and determine if what was provided was accurate. Next, the owner will need to complete the (RP-467-Rnw) Low Income Sr Citizens exemption application and provide copies of **2018** NYS or Federal Income tax return or the Income work worksheet (RP-425-Wkst) with copies of income noted. I know this is cumbersome but NYS is requiring the Enhanced STAR to be completely separate from the Low Income exemption.

NOW… The good News…

This process will only have to be done this year. In subsequent years the NYS DTF will automatically check your income. There will be no more renewal applications for the Enhanced STAR exemption.

There will be Enhanced STAR applications, IVP application and income for those who are going from Basic STAR to Enhanced STAR.

There will always be a renewal for the SR Citizen Low Income exemption.