

**The Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program** provides eligible households home energy audits or insulation installation. To apply, Peoples Gas customers should call the Community and Economic Development Association (CEDA) at 1-800-571-CEDA (2332). North Shore Gas customers should call the Community Action Partnership of Lake County at 1-847-249-4330.

**Emergency Housing Assistance Program (EHAP)**

Emergency grants are available for the repair or replacement of heating units, roof repairs and other energy conservation activities.

For more information, call 311

*"I'd like to know more about other government programs. Any chance I can get a tax break?"*

Some residents may be eligible for tax relief programs administered by local and federal governments. To learn more, if you live in Chicago contact the **Chicago Tax Assistance Center at 1-312-744-1000 or 311**. Here are a few examples of programs:

- The **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)** can provide cash refunds to moderate- and low-income working families and individuals, even if you do not owe federal taxes. The average EITC refund is about \$1,500. The program is available from January 1 to April 15.
- The **Tax Counseling Project** provides free tax preparation services for working families. For more information, call 1-312-252-0280.
- The **Tax Assistance Program (It All Adds Up)** provides free income tax preparation. In Chicago, call 311. In the suburbs, call 1-888-827-8511
- The **Homeowner Exemption** can reduce the equalized assessed value of your home, as shown on your property tax bill, by up to \$4,500.

- The **Home Improvement Exemption** allows homeowners to make up to \$45,000 worth of home improvements without increasing their property taxes for at least 4 years.
- The **Homeowner Exemption for Long-Term Properties** can assist homeowners of 10 years or more when their equalized assessed property value increase exceeds 32.1%.
- The **Chicago Homeowner Assistance Program (CHAP)** helps homeowners pay property taxes when their tax increase is higher than the city's average assessment increase.

*"I'm a senior citizen. Are there any special programs or tax breaks for me?"*

There are additional assistance programs available for senior citizens. Call 311, if you live in Chicago, for details.

- The **Senior Citizen Homestead Exemption** provides tax relief by reducing the equalized assessed value of your home by \$2,500, which can reduce your tax bill by up to \$250.
- The **Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze Exemption** allows qualified seniors to freeze the equalized value of their home to avoid increased property taxes.
- The **Senior Citizen Real Estate Tax Deferral** defers all or part of a senior's qualified real estate taxes.
- The **Circuit Breaker Program** provides grants to low-income seniors and disabled citizens to help pay property taxes. Both owners and renters are eligible.
- The **SeniorSave Discount Card** offers savings to about 200 merchants in Chicago.
- **SeniorCare** helps low-income seniors pay for most prescription drugs and many over the counter drugs if prescribed by their doctor. To apply, call the Illinois Department of Revenue at 1 800 624 2459.