



New Hampshire Housing
Bringing You Home

Voucher Homeownership Newsletter



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A Homeownership Counselor at New Hampshire Housing can assist you with:

- *Financial education*
- *Managing your household budget*
- *Credit improvement*
- *Information, resources and referrals to supportive services*



Property Tax Relief Programs

New Hampshire law provides for property tax relief programs. Below is a brief description of those that may be available in your community. To find out if a program is available, eligibility information, applications, and

deadlines, please contact your local Office of the Assessor.

Tax Abatement

Property owners who believe that their property was assessed incorrectly or that the assessment is disproportionate to similar properties may apply for abatement.

Elderly Exemption

Residents over 65 years of age who meet income and asset limits may apply for an exemption of a portion of the assessment of the property.

Exemptions for Persons with Disabilities

Individuals who are 100% disabled, receiving benefits, and meet income limit and asset limits may apply for an exemption of a portion of the assessment of the property.

Exemptions for Improvements to Assist Persons with Disabilities

This allows for exemption of the receipted total cost of improvements made to assist the disabled person residing in the home.

Veteran's Tax Credits

Available for those who served in the armed forces with honorable discharge or for the surviving spouse (who has not remarried) of any person who was killed or died while on active duty.

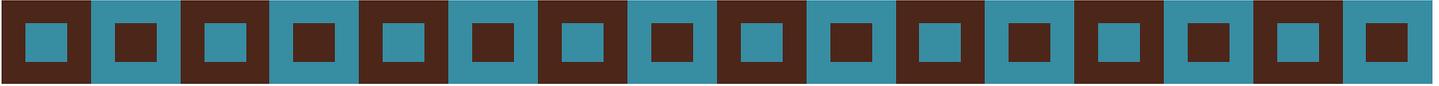
The State of New Hampshire's Low- and Moderate-Income Property Tax Relief Program

Program runs annually from May – June 30th. Eligibility for this program is determined at the state level. To learn more about this program, please visit the Department of Revenue Administration's (DRA) website www.revenue.nh.gov/assistance/low-moderate.htm or call the DRA at 603-271-2191.

Tax Time Is Around the Corner

April 15th is right around the corner. Did you know that most people, on average, pay \$200 or more in tax preparation fees? Don't be one of them. File your taxes for free and keep 100% of your refund. Also, find out if you are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit.

For free tax preparation information, dial 2-1-1 to find your local Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site. You can also visit www.nhhed.com to check out IRS resources to file your taxes for free and find an Income Tax Action Plan. My Free Taxes (www.myfreetaxes.com) is another good resource to help you get organized and, if you get a refund, to plan on how to use it.



Take a 30-Day Savings Challenge

Below you'll find two savings challenges to choose from, or try both! Start small and believe in *your* ability to stick to it.

The "Job Jar" Challenge

A "job jar" is a strategy to trick yourself into building an emergency savings.

- Take a sheet of paper and cut it into twelve pieces.
- On each piece write down one possible emergency expense and how much you think it might cost. For example: a new car tire (\$100), a plumber to fix the leak (\$75), a medical bill (\$25), etc.
- Each month bravely pick an emergency expense from the jar and put that money into a savings account.

Watch your emergency savings grow and be prepared for the unexpected!

The "Loose Change" Challenge

- Start on the first day of the month.
- Every day put *some or all* of your loose change into a jar, and don't spend it.
- If you continue the challenge for six months you could accumulate \$50-\$60.
- In a year you could have over \$100.

Saving loose change can actually boost your confidence in your ability to save money.

Everyone has the ability to save. *Start small* using these challenges and *think big*, Over time, your savings will add up. Even small amounts can help you in the future. For more ideas go to: www.americasaves.org and www.smartypig.com.

\$4,000 to Pay for Education



Are you or a household member planning to attend school in the fall? The *New Hampshire Community Loan Fund* offers an Individual Development Account (IDA) program, making paying for secondary education much easier. You can receive an 8-to-1 match when you save up to \$500 from household earnings. For example:

- You save \$500 + they add \$4,000 = \$4,500 for tuition and fees
- You save \$200 + they add \$1,600 = \$1,800 for tuition and fees

To be eligible, someone in the household must have earned income. To make saving more convenient, the money you deposit can come directly from your income tax return instead of your paycheck. You have up to 12 months to save and 18 months to use the match money. After six months of saving and eight hours of financial education you can start withdrawing funds. For more information, contact a housing counselor at New Hampshire Housing listed on the front of this newsletter.