



Property Tax Relief Program Updates

Budget & Policy Committee
November 10th, 2025

Agenda

- Purpose
- Background
- Potential Changes
- Budget
- Next Steps
- Discussion

Purpose

To provide an update since the program was transferred from Denver Human Services (DHS) to the Department of Housing Stability (HOST) in 2025

To discuss proposed ordinance changes and budget needs

Background

The Denver Property Tax Relief Program provides a partial refund of property taxes paid, or the equivalent in rent, to qualifying Denver residents.

- Eligible applicants receive a payment of at least \$372
- Average refund in 2024-2025 program year was \$1,148
- Average refund to date 2025-2026 program year is ~\$1200

Background

Other Existing State Property Tax Relief Programs:

- Property Tax Exemption for Senior Citizens (65+)
 - 50 percent of the first \$200,000 of actual value of the qualified applicant's primary residence is exempted
 - Property must be owner-occupied for 10 consecutive years
- Property Tax Deferral Program
 - Allows senior citizens, active military, and those who exceed the 4% tax growth cap to access an interest-bearing loan to defer partial payment of property tax so long as they keep enrolling and remain eligible

** These are separate programs run by the state, but residents can apply for any or all*

DHS Background

Reasons applicants have been denied:

- Incomplete application
- Address was already claimed
- Address outside of Denver
- Applicant’s AMI is above eligibility threshold
- Applicant already received the rebate

	Applications Received*	Rebates Paid
2020	3,099	2,505
2021	3,260	2,586
2022	3,700	2,952
2023	3,912	3,194
2024	4355	3336**

*Includes duplicate applications

**Some payments still pending

Background – 2025 to date

- HOST launched the new online application on May 1, 2025
 - Have received 3,018 applications May-October (application open until April 30, 2026)
 - 1,047 have been processed and approved
- Contracted with two local non-profit providers following a competitive procurement process
- Conducted several outreach events to assist residents with applying
- Nonprofit providers offer call centers to assist with applying over the phone or in-person
- HOST/DHS staff returning calls from residents who call the city's property tax refund number to support the transition

Current Eligibility Criteria

	Groups	Financial eligibility
Who does the program serve?	Homeowners with disabilities	<= 60% of Area Median Income for the household's size. AMI is calculated by HOST.
	Homeowners 65+	
	Homeowners with children	
	Renters with disabilities	<= 25% of AMI for single renters, <=30% of AMI for two renters (renters' combined income must be <= 30%).
	Renters 65+	
What are other key program features?	• Property taxes must be paid in full for the tax year, for all participants. This also means people aren't eligible if they live in properties exempt from local property taxes. • Social Security benefits aren't counted as income for the purpose of eligibility, but the state's Adult Financial program benefits are. • Program Years run from May 1 through April 30. Applications and benefits relate to the calendar year preceding the May 1 date. For example, applications received from May 1, 2023 - April 30, 2024 relate to calendar year 2022. This set of applications and benefits is referred to as 'Program Year 2022'.	

Proposed Changes to Eligibility Criteria

	Groups	Financial Eligibility
Who does the program serve? Changes in red	Homeowners with disabilities	<=80% Area Median Income (AMI) for the household's size.
	Homeowners 62+	
	Homeowners with children	
	Homeowners who are a surviving spouse (non remarried)	
	Renters with disabilities	<=30% Area Median Income (AMI) for the household's size.
	Renters 62+	

For Discussion:

Should renters be phased out of the Property Tax Relief Program in 2030?

Beneficiary Breakdowns

Beneficiary breakdown by demographics for 2023 Program Year (DHS):

- 60% renters; 40% homeowners
- Most 65+, with disability as second highest category

Beneficiary breakdown by demographics for 2025 Program Year to date (HOST):

- 57% renters; 43% homeowners (approved to date)
- 60% renters; 40% homeowners (total applications – may include duplicates)
- Most 65+, with disability as second highest category

Estimated Need for 2025-2026

Program has a \$4.9 million budget allocation for Fiscal Year 2026:

- Based on HOST projections, this should be sufficient to meet the needs of the program for calendar year 2026.

Next Steps

- Budget process
- Budget and Policy Committee November 10th, 2025
- Council Process
- Implement ordinance changes into application and program operations

Questions & Discussion