

Durham Homeowners Receive an Extension to Apply for Property Tax Relief

DURHAM, N.C.— In an effort to ensure that all Durham residents can apply for homeowner property tax relief, the Low-Income Homeowners Relief program's (LIHR) deadline has been extended. Long time Durham homeowners now have until **January 31, 2022** to apply.

The LIHR program is a joint effort between the Durham County Tax Office and the Durham County Department of Social Services.

The program, Low-Income Homeowners Relief Program (LIHR) will serve exclusively Durham homeowners who have owned their home for 10 years or more, and who are not currently receiving any state tax subsidies for their property. To be eligible these homeowners must have incomes less than or equal to 80% of the average median income. However, priority will be given to those applicants whose total household income is less than or equal to 60% of the area median income. According to government data, the Durham Area Median income is \$86,400. When an applicant is determined to be eligible for assistance the award will be applied to current tax bills only. The maximum award granted will be 750 dollars, and those funds will be paid directly to the Durham County Tax Office. Homeowners will receive a letter of their award prior to the releasing of funds.

The documentation required for applying to the LIHR program are as follows:

- Proof of residency—the current property tax bill must include applicants name on their primary residence

Proof of household income – Paycheck stubs; Social Security/SSI Award Letter; Unemployment Benefit Letter; 2020 Tax Return, and Photo Identification

It is important to note that Durham property taxes are due January 5, 2022. After January 5, 2022, interest will accrue on outstanding accounts.

Durham residents who are determined eligible for the LIHR program and have already paid their 2021 property tax will receive a letter for the amount they are approved and will receive reimbursement from the Durham Tax Office.

The application process for the LIHR program is online, accessible via the Durham County DSS website. For Durham residents who wish to receive assistance with the LIHR application process, limited hourly phone appointments are being made Monday through Thursday at, (919) 560-8000. Appointments begin at 10 a.m. The last appointment will be taken at 2 p.m. All of details on the requirements for the Low-Income Homeowners Relief Program are available on the website, www.DCONC.gov/DSS.

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