

Tax Exemptions, Credits, Deferrals, and Relief Checks

Baldwin residents may apply for several programs that either reduce their local property taxes or provide payments from the State of Maine. Mention these to your friends and neighbors who might not have internet access. Help them apply if needed.

The following are exemptions which reduce the calculated value of your property when determining your taxes. Applications are available on Cumberland County Assessing's website at <https://www.cumberlandcounty.org/555/Property-Tax-Relief> You are encouraged to apply for any that are applicable to you.

1. Homestead Exemption
2. Veteran Exemption – for Veterans and Veteran's Widows
3. Blind Exemption
4. Solar and Wind Exemption
5. Current Use Programs for Tree Growth, Farmland, and Open Space

State Property Tax Deferral Program

This is a recently enacted State program to help people who are 65 and older or permanently disabled to age in place by paying for their property taxes. Details of the program are at <https://www.maine.gov/revenue/taxes/tax-relief-credits-programs/property-tax-relief-programs/deferral-program>. Applications are submitted to Cumberland County Assessing. The Application form is available at https://www.maine.gov/revenue/sites/maine.gov/revenue/files/inline-files/deferral_app.pdf.

This program is similar to a reverse mortgage so make sure it is what meets your needs.

Property Tax Fairness Credit returns a portion of property taxes paid to qualified individuals. There is also a Sales Tax Fairness Credit available. These credits are applied for by submitting Maine Income Tax Forms 1040ME and PTFC/SFTC. These credits can be received even if you didn't owe any Maine Income taxes for the year. You may also be eligible for credits for years in which you were eligible but didn't apply for the credits by filing an amended return up to three years after the normal filing deadline. Info on these programs are available at

<https://www.maine.gov/revenue/taxes/tax-relief-credits-programs/income-tax-credits/property-tax-fairness-credit>.

<https://www.maine.gov/revenue/taxes/tax-relief-credits-programs/income-tax-credits/sales-tax-fairness-credit>.

COVID-19 Relief Checks - \$850.00

Maine is mailing these checks to an estimated 858,000 people. To be eligible you must file a 2021 Maine Individual income tax return by October 21, 2022. Details about eligibility can be found at <https://www.maine.gov/governor/mills/relief-checks>.

You may also be eligible for help from the Home Energy Assistance Program, zero-premium health insurance and other programs. Contact Baldwin's General Assistance coordinator for help with apply for these programs. <https://www.baldwinmaine.org/general-assistance.html>.