

COOK COUNTY ASSESSOR

FRITZ KAEGI



COOK COUNTY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE
118 NORTH CLARK STREET,
CHICAGO, IL 60602 | PHONE: 312.443.7550
WWW.COOKCOUNTYASSESSOR.COM

February 2020

Dear Homeowner,

Our records indicate that you applied and qualified for the Veterans with Disabilities Exemption last year. This exemption requires annual renewal and the form contained in this mailing will allow you to re-apply.

What is the Veterans with Disabilities Exemption?

The Veterans with Disabilities Exemption provides an annual reduction in the Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) of the primary residence occupied by a disabled veteran.

What is the equalized assessed value (EAV)?

The EAV is a partial value of your property to which tax rates are applied to determine your property tax bill.

A reduction in your your EAV can lower your overall property tax bill. Your property tax bill reflects your share of the overall tax levy for your area. The levy is determined by your local municipalities and taxing bodies.

The EAV is not the amount of your tax and its reduction is not the dollar amount by which your tax bill would be lowered.

How much is the Veterans with Disabilities Exemption worth?

The amount of your exemption is determined by the degree of your service-related disability:

- At least 30% but less than 50% disabled: \$2,500 reduction in EAV
- At least 50% but less than 70% disabled: \$5,000 reduction in EAV
- At least 70% disabled: completely exempt from property tax

How do I qualify for this exemption?

The Veterans with Disabilities Exemption must be applied for each tax year. If you would like to re-apply for Tax Year 2019 (billed and due in 2020), please complete the application and return it to our office by March 4, 2020.

Please include and submit a letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs dated no earlier than 2019 to verify the percentage of your disability. **Application forms cannot be processed without such a letter.**

Please mail your application to:
Cook County Assessor's Office
118 North Clark Street, 3rd Floor
Chicago, IL 60602

We look forward to continuing our service to you, other veterans and all taxpayers in Cook County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fritz Kaegi".

Fritz Kaegi
Cook County Assessor



Veterans with Disabilities Exemption Renewal Form for Tax Year 2019

Check either "yes" or "no" as it applies to the property and assessment year.

Is this the only property for which you have applied for this exemption? Yes No

During the 2019 assessment year, were you the owner of the property? Yes No

Date of occupancy? _____

If "No",

were you a resident of a facility licensed under the Nursing Home Care Act? Yes No

was this property occupied by your spouse or did it remain unoccupied? Yes No

Are you liable for the payment of real estates taxes? Yes No

Check **one** statement that applies.

- a I am a disabled veteran who currently has a 30% to 49% service-related disability.
- b I am a disabled veteran who currently has a 50% to 69% service-related disability.
- c I am a disabled veteran who currently has at least a 70% service-related disability.
- d I am a widowed, surviving spouse of a disabled veteran and have not remarried.

Did you receive the Disabled Veterans Homeowner Exemption for the prior assessment year on this property? Yes No

If "Yes", check the amount of the exemption.

\$2,500 EAV reduction \$5,000 EAV reduction
Total Exemption

Applicants are **required** to include and submit a letter from the **Department of Veterans Affairs**, dated no earlier than 2019, verifying the applicant's percentage of disability. Application forms cannot be processed without such a letter.

I state that to the best of my knowledge, the information on this application is true, correct and complete.

Signature of Owner/Lessee or Representative

Date



Facts Regarding Veterans with Disabilities Exemption Changes

• The **Veterans with Disabilities Exemption** provides an annual reduction in the Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) of the primary residence occupied by a disabled veteran. The EAV is the *value on which each property tax bill is computed*, so reducing your EAV may lower your tax bill.

Again, please note EAV is *not the amount of your tax* and its reduction is not the amount by which your tax *bill* would be lowered.

• The Cook County Assessor's Office (CCAO) will have Veterans with Disabilities Exemption application forms ready for taxpayers beginning on February 5, 2020. These application forms will be available on the CCAO website: www.cookcountyassessor.com and by mail. For further information, please call (312) 443-7550.

• **The applications are due back to CCAO by March 4, 2020.** Most disabled veteran taxpayers who turn in exemption applications for the 2019 Tax Year will see savings deducted from their second-installment tax bills that are mailed in July 2020.

A smaller group of disabled veterans who are *completely* exempt from property taxes *for the first time this year* will receive, in February, a first-installment bill which should be paid. Any overpayment **will be fully refunded** by the Cook County Treasurer's Office during the summer. This one-time situation affects only these *completely-exempt* disabled veterans.

• **A non-remarried surviving spouse** of a disabled veteran may continue to receive this exemption on the deceased spouse's primary residence or transfer this exemption to a new primary residence.

• The chart below outlines the changes in exemption amounts based on percentage of disability between the prior law and the current law:

Taxable Years	Percentage of Disability	Exemption Amount*
2010-2014 (Tax Years)	70% and greater	\$5,000
	50-69%	\$2, 500
2015 and thereafter (Tax Years)	30%-49%	\$2,500
	50%-69%	\$5,000
	70% and greater	Total Exemption

***IMPORTANT NOTE:** This amount will be deducted from your Equalized Assessed value (EAV), which is the value on which your tax is computed. Please note EAV is not the amount of your tax and its reduction is not the amount by which your tax bill would be lowered.