**PROPERTY TAX HELP**

The State Controller’s Property Tax Postponement Program allows homeowners who are seniors, are blind, or have a disability to defer current-year property taxes on their principal residence if they meet certain criteria, including at least 40 percent equity in the home and an annual household income of $45,810 or less (among other requirements). The deferment of property taxes is secured by a lien against the property which must eventually be repaid.

2021-22 Program Timeline

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [Applications](https://www.sco.ca.gov/Files-ARD-Local/PTP_app_final.pdf) available: | September 2021 |
| Filing period opens: | October 1, 2021 |
| Filing period closes: | February 10, 2022 |

Note: Californians affected by natural disasters such as fires, floods, and earthquakes may be eligible for another tax relief program that allows for reappraisal of damaged or destroyed property. For additional information on this program, visit the California Board of Equalization’s [disaster relief website](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.boe.ca.gov%2Fproptaxes%2Fdisaster-relief.htm&data=04%7C01%7Cmlanger%40SCO.CA.GOV%7C7e1d3b64f85140900c5908d973b808e9%7C86356b47d2834daca51687a294f20e12%7C1%7C0%7C637668056543398709%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=mhX9hF3jg7ia0yW71l0PK6f7f4dP8gysGqdEScuq9x4%3D&reserved=0) (https://www.boe.ca.gov/proptaxes/disaster-relief.htm).

* **Disabled Veteran’s Exemption**The Disabled Veterans’ Exemption reduces the property tax liability for qualified veterans. It is more generous than the homeowner’s exemption. The property may be owned by the veteran, the veteran’s spouse, or the veteran and spouse jointly.
* **Transfer Your Current Property’s Value to Your Children or Grandchildren**If you sell or transfer your home to a child or grandchild, they may be able to continue paying the same tax rate.
* **Continue Paying Your Current Tax Rate if You Sell and Buy a Home of Similar Value**If you are 55 years or older, and sell your home, and buy another of equal or lesser value, you may be able to continue paying your current tax rate and avoid paying higher property taxes.

**Utilities Assistance Programs**

**Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Programs (LIHEAP)**

* Federally funded
* The two types of assistance available are:
	+ **Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)** – provides a direct payment to an eligible client’s utility bill to help offset the cost of heating or cooling their home.
	+ **Energy Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP)** – provides assistance to low-income households that are in a crisis situation. Eligibility for ECIP is the same as it is for HEAP except a Shut Off Notice from the Utility Company must have been received by the client prior to application.

Phone number: (209) 723-3201 || Call to make an appointment for an in-person interview with one of the Intake Workers. Bring the needed documents to the appointment.

Hours of operation: 07:30AM to 6PM

Website: <https://mercedcaa.org/our-programs/home-repair-energy-saving-services/do-you-qualify/>

**To Apply for Utility Assistance and Weatherization, bring the following:**

1. Valid government-issued photo ID’s for every adult in the household.
2. Valid Social Security cards or proof of Social Security numbers for everyone living in the household (medical cards, shot records and birth certificate are acceptable only for children of 18 or younger).
3. Verification of total household income (Gross, before taxes) for the last 6 weeks. Cal Works/TANF recipients must provide a current Notice of Action or Memo from your case worker showing amounts received for the month. SSI/SSA recipients must have a current benefit letter from the Social Security Office, or bank statement showing direct deposit of funds. Proof of Unemployment Benefits, Disability, Child Support, Retirement, Alimony, etc., must be dated within the last 6 weeks. Each person living in your household who is 19 years and older and receives NO income, needs to fill out and sign the CSD-43B Survey of No Income and Expenses [to include with your application](https://www.mercedcaa.com/our-programs/home-repair-energy-saving-services/application-forms/).
4. A copy of all electricity, propane, natural gas, heating oil, and firewood bills from the last 6 weeks for your household. Bills must include all pages, and show account number, name, physical address, mailing address, billing date & due date, total current charges & any previous balance. Closing bills, altered bills, and accounts in collection are not acceptable.

**Weatherization Applications require Additional documents:**

1. If you are applying for Weatherization for a home that you own and occupy, provide a copy of the deed, title, or property tax papers, for proof of ownership.
2. If you are applying for Weatherization for a home that you rent and occupy, include with your application a document (handwritten is acceptable) which provides the owner’s name, mailing address, and telephone number. MCCAA will contact the owner to complete some mandatory paperwork before we will be able to continue.

**Covid-19 California Rent Assistance**

* Call the CA COVID-19 Rent Relief Call Center at **833-430-2122 to start an application.**
* **Call 833-687-0967** for assistance in another language, or to get help to see if you’re eligible, help you fill out an application, or upload required paperwork, schedule an appointment with an organization near you.

Website: <https://housing.ca.gov/covid_rr/index.html>

**Program Details**

* Who can apply?
* Landlords
* Renters

**What’s covered?**

* UNPAID RENT

Landlords who participate in the CA COVID-19 Rent Relief program can get reimbursed for an eligible renter’s unpaid rent.

Eligible renters whose landlords choose not to participate in the program may apply on their own and receive assistance for unpaid rent.

* UPCOMING RENT

Eligible renters can receive financial assistance for their upcoming monthly rent, too.

* UTILITY ASSISTANCE

Eligible renters may also receive assistance for unpaid utility payments will be compensated at 100% of cost and paid directly to the utility provider. Some restrictions apply.

**LEGAL SERVICES**

* [**Central California Legal Services, Inc**](http://www.needhelppayingbills.com/html/california_free_legal_assistan.html).

Phone number: 800-675-8001 (General Help Line) || 800-657-8001 ext. 1271 (Health Help Line)

Address: 1640 N St #200, Merced, CA 95340

Hours of operation: Monday to Friday 08:30AM – 12PM, 1PM – 4:30PM

Website: https://www.centralcallegal.org/

* a non-profit law firm that provides free legal advice to older adults and low-income individuals. Some of the services offered include advice on utility service disconnections, health care access, illegal workplace terminations, elder abuse prevention, tenant/landlord disputes, free legal foreclosure assistance, education law, consumer debts and taxpayer assistance.
* **Merced County Area Agency on Aging Legal Services**

Phone number for information: (209) 385-7550 or 1-800-510-2020

Phone number for appointments: (209) 723-5466