

LOW-INCOME SENIOR CITIZENS ASSESSMENT FREEZE INSTRUCTIONS

COOK COUNTY
ASSESSOR'S OFFICE



If you are applying for the **Low-Income Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption**, please use these instructions for the Income Verification section.

"Income" for this exemption means 2021 federal adjusted gross income, plus certain items subtracted from or not included in your federal adjusted gross income (320 ILCS 25/3.07). These include tax-exempt interest, dividends, annuities, net operating loss carryovers, capital loss carryovers, and Social Security benefits. Income also includes public assistance payments from a governmental agency, SSI, and certain taxes paid. These Step-by-Step Instructions provide federal return line references and reporting statement references, whenever possible. The amounts written on each line must include the 2021 income for you, your spouse, and all other individuals living in the household.

Line 1 — Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits

Write the total gross amount of any retirement, disability or survivor's benefits (including Medicare deductions) the entire household received from the Social Security Administration. You must also include any Supplemental Security Income (SSI) the entire household received and any benefits to dependent children in the household. Do not include reimbursements under Medicare/Medicaid for medical expenses.

Line 2 — Railroad Retirement benefits

Write the total amount of retirement, disability, or survivor's benefits (including Medicare deductions) the entire household received under the Railroad Retirement Act (shown on Forms SSA-1099 and RRB-1099).

Line 3 — Civil Service benefits

Write the total amount of retirement, disability, or survivor's benefits the entire household received under any Civil Service retirement plan (shown on Form 1099-R).

Line 4 — Annuities and other retirement income

Write the total amount of income the entire household received as an annuity from any annuity, endowment, life insurance contract, or similar contract or agreement (shown on Form 1099-R). Include only the federally taxable portion of pensions, IRAs, and IRAs converted to Roth IRAs (shown on U.S. 1040, Line 4b). IRAs are not taxable when "rolled over," unless "rolled over" into a Roth IRA.

Line 5 — Human Services and other governmental cash public assistance benefits

Write the total amount of Human Services and other governmental cash public assistance benefits the entire household received. If the first two digits of any member's Human Services case number are the same as any of those in the following list, you must include the total amount of any of these benefits on Line 5.

01 aged

02 blind

03 disabled

04 and 06 temporary assistance to needy families (TANF)

07 general assistance

To determine the total amount of the household benefits, multiply the monthly amount each person received by 12. You must adjust figures accordingly if anyone did not receive 12 equal checks during this period. Food stamps and medical assistance benefits are not considered income and should not be added to total income.

Line 6 — Wages, salaries, and tips from work

Write the total amount of wages, salaries, and tips from work for every household member (shown in box 1 of Form W-2).

Line 7 — Interest and dividends received

Write the total amount of interest and dividends the entire household received from all sources, including any government sources (shown on Forms 1099-INT, 1099-OID, and 1099-DIV). You must include both taxable and nontaxable amounts.

Line 8 — Net rental, farm, and business income or

(loss) Write the total amount of net income or loss from rental, farm, business sources, etc., the entire household received, as allowed on U.S. 1040, Schedule 1, Lines 3, 5, and 6. You cannot use any net operating loss (NOL) carryover in figuring income.

Line 9 — Net capital gain or (loss)

Write the total amount of taxable capital gain or loss the entire household received in 2021, as allowed on U.S. 1040, Line 6 and U.S. 1040, Schedule 1, Line 4. You cannot use a net capital loss carryover in figuring income.

Line 10 — Other income or (loss)

Write the total amount of other income or loss not included in Lines 1 through 9, that is included in federal adjusted gross income, such as alimony received, unemployment compensation, taxes withheld from oil or gas well royalties. You cannot use any net operating loss (NOL) carryover in figuring income.

Line 11 — Add Lines 1 through 10.

Line 12 — Subtractions

You may subtract only the reported adjustments to income totaled on U.S. 1040, Schedule 1, Line 26. For example:

- IRA deduction
- Educator expenses
- Moving expenses for members of Armed Forces
- Alimony or maintenance paid activities deduction
- Health savings account deduction
- Student loan interest deduction
- Deductible part of self-employment tax
- Self-employed health insurance deduction
- Self-employed SEP, SIMPLE, and qualified plans
- Penalty on early withdrawal of savings

Please see the U.S. 1040, Schedule 1 for a total list of adjustments

Line 13 — Total household income

Subtract Line 12 from Line 11. If this amount is greater than \$65,000, you do not qualify for this exemption