

# COOK COUNTY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

## 2020 Property Tax Savings for Veterans



### Veterans with Disabilities Exemption

Qualifying veterans with disabilities are eligible to receive a reduction in the equalized assessed value (EAV) on their primary residence. Those with 30%-49% service-connected disabilities receive an annual \$2,500 reduction in EAV, 50%-69% receive a reduction of \$5,000, and 70% or greater are completely exempt from paying property taxes.

- ☐ Owned and occupied the property as a primary residence in 2019.
- ☐ Served as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces on active duty or state active duty, a member of the Illinois National Guard, or U.S. Reserve Forces and have been honorably discharged.
- ☐ At least a 30% service-connected disability as certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

### Returning Veterans Exemption

Veterans returning from active duty in armed conflict are eligible to receive a \$5,000 reduction in the EAV of their property for each taxable year in which they return.

- ☐ Owned and occupied the property as a primary residence as of January 1, 2019.
- ☐ Served as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, Illinois National Guard or, U.S Reserve Forces.
- ☐ Having returned from active duty in an armed conflict.

***Please note: a reduction in EAV is not the dollar amount by which your tax bill is lowered.***



These exemptions must be filed annually. Applications are due early 2020 for the 2019 tax year.

Online: [www.cookcountyassessor.com/exemptions](http://www.cookcountyassessor.com/exemptions)  
In Person: 118 N. Clark Street, 3rd floor, Chicago  
By Phone: 312.443.7550

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# Common Questions about Veteran Exemptions

## Veterans with Disabilities Exemption

### What documentation is required?

First-time applicants must provide a Department of Defense DD Form 214, certified by either the Cook County Recorder of Deeds or Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs. All applicants must annually provide a Disability Certification Letter from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

### Does a surviving spouse qualify for this exemption?

Yes. A non-married surviving spouse can continue to receive the exemption on the spouse's property or transfer the exemption to a new primary residence. A surviving spouse is no longer eligible to receive the exemption after remarrying.

### Are there other exemptions available for property owners with disabilities?

Yes. The Person with Disabilities Exemption provides savings for non-veterans. For more information on this exemption, contact our office (see blue box below).

*Please Note: a Persons with Disabilities Exemption **cannot** be combined with a Veterans with Disabilities Exemption.*

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## Returning Veterans Exemption

### What documentation is required?

If a veteran is discharged from active duty, a Department of Defense Form DD 214 certified by the Cook County Recorder of Deeds or the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs must be provided. If a veteran is still on active duty after returning home, military orders and a travel voucher showing the date of return must be provided. The documents must state that the property owner is returning from armed conflict involving the armed forces of the U.S. within the tax year the exemption is being requested.

*Please Note: a Returning Veterans Exemption **cannot** be combined with a Veterans with Disabilities Exemption*

Contact the Assessor's Office for more information about property tax exemption savings.

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