



## ANSWERS TO THE MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DISABILITY RENT INCREASE EXEMPTION (DRIE)

### 1. WHAT IS DRIE?

The Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) is a program that offers an exemption from future rent increases to tenants with disabilities who meet all of the eligibility criteria. The program provides the landlords with a credit, that is applied to their property tax, in an amount equal to the rent increase they would have received from the tenant who is in the DRIE program.

### 2. AM I ELIGIBLE FOR DRIE?

Applicants must meet all five criteria to be approved for DRIE:

1. Rent an apartment defined as eligible by law;
2. Be named on the lease or rent order, be the tenant of record, or be the spouse or registered domestic partner with a disability of either;
3. Receive eligible state or federal disability-related financial assistance;
4. Meet the program's income eligibility requirement; and,
5. Pay more than one-third of their household's aggregate disposable income for rent.

### 3. IS MY APARTMENT ELIGIBLE?

Applicants must rent an apartment that is (a) rent-controlled or rent-stabilized, (b) in a Mitchell Lama development, (c) owned by a limited dividend housing company, redevelopment company or housing development fund company incorporated under the private housing finance law, or (d) in a building where the mortgage was federally insured under Section 213 of the National Housing Act.

### 4. WHAT IS A "TENANT OF RECORD?"

If a DRIE applicant is not named on the lease or rent order, he/she must be a tenant of record for the apartment (or the spouse with a disability of either). The tenant of record may be a spouse, domestic partner, or child who has the legal right to the apartment, also known as the right of succession, after the leaseholder's death.

### 5. WHAT IS "ELIGIBLE STATE OR FEDERAL DISABILITY-RELATED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE?"

The applicant with a disability must currently receive any one of the following:

1. Federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI);
2. Federal Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI),
3. US Department of Veterans Affairs disability pension or compensation (Must be military service related disability pension or compensation); or
4. Disability-related Medicaid.

**6. WHAT IS THE DRIE INCOME REQUIREMENT?**

Income eligibility is established by the applicant's income from the prior calendar year of their application.

For Calendar Year 2009, income eligibility is established by the applicant's income from 2008. For a single-person household, the applicant's total household income must be less than or equal to \$19,284. For households with two or more members, the income of all household members must be less than or equal to \$27,780. Note: The DRIE income eligibility limit is revised every year.

**7. WHAT ARE IMPAIRMENT-RELATED AND BLIND WORK EXPENSES?**

These are expenses incurred by the applicant with a disability that allow him/ her to work, and they can be used to offset income.

**8. IF A HOUSEHOLD MEMBER ALREADY HAS SCRIE, CAN ANOTHER MEMBER APPLY FOR DRIE?**

No. The law does not permit a household to have both a SCRIE and DRIE benefit at the same time.

**9. IF I AM APPROVED, WHEN DOES MY EXEMPTION BEGIN?**

Your exemption will begin the first day of the first month after your application has been received.

**10. DO I CONTINUE RECEIVING THE DRIE BENEFIT FOREVER?**

Maybe. If you live in a rent controlled apartment, you are required to submit a renewal/recertification application every two years. If you live in a rent stabilized apartment, you are required to renew/recertify for the benefit every two years or upon renewal of your current lease, whichever occurs first.

**11. HOW DO I APPLY FOR DRIE?**

You can print a DRIE application from Finance's website at [nyc.gov/finance](http://nyc.gov/finance) or call 311 to request an application by mail.

You may apply for DRIE any time. Finance will notify you that your application has been received (generally within 30 days). If you have been approved, we will notify your landlord that you are exempt from any future rent increases.

If you need assistance completing the DRIE application or have questions about eligibility, please call 311.

**12. DO I HAVE TO REAPPLY FOR DRIE IF I MOVE?**

Yes. A new application is necessary to confirm that you still meet all the eligibility criteria, and it will alert Finance to cancel the owner's abatement for your old apartment and credit the owner/building manager of your new building.

This document is intended to serve only as a guide.

All submitted applications for exemptions are subject to review in accordance with the real property tax laws of New York State.