



## ELDERLY RENTAL REBATE PROGRAM

By: Nicole Dube, Principal Analyst

### ISSUE

Briefly describe the Connecticut Elderly Rental Rebate Program and identify the legislation that suspended and subsequently re-opened the program to new applicants.

### ELDERLY RENTAL REBATE PROGRAM

The state's Elderly Rental Rebate Program reimburses older adult or totally disabled renters whose incomes do not exceed certain limits. It is open to people renting an apartment or room, or living in cooperative housing or a mobile home. The recipient, or his or her spouse, must be (1) age 65 or older; (2) age 50 or older and the surviving spouse of a renter who at the time of the renter's death had qualified and was entitled to tax relief, provided such spouse was domiciled with such renter at the time of the renter's death; or (3) age 18 or older with a total and permanent disability. The recipient also must have lived in the state for at least one year.

Renters' rebates can be up to \$900 for married couples and up to \$700 for single individuals. The rebate amount is based on a graduated income scale and the amount of rent and utility payments (excluding telephone) made in the calendar year prior to the year in which the renter applies ([CGS § 12-170d](#) et seq).

### *Program Closure*

2013 legislation suspended the program to new applicants after April 1, 2013 and limited eligibility to individuals that received a rental rebate in calendar year 2011 ([PA 13-234](#)). 2014 legislation restored the program and transferred its administration from the Department of Housing to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) ([PA 14-217](#)). The legislation continued to allow OPM 120 days to approve payments to municipalities and forward them to the comptroller.



Under the restored program, if the OPM secretary determines a renter was overpaid, he may reduce the amount of subsequent rebates to recoup the amount of overpayment. Aggrieved claimants have the right to appeal the secretary's decision.

In 2016, the legislature required OPM to reduce program grants as necessary to keep the program within available appropriations. If reductions must be made, they must be implemented by a percentage reduction to all grants ([PA 16-3](#), May Special Session, § 82).

ND:bs