



## Circuit Breaker

The official name of the Circuit Breaker Program is the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief and Pharmaceutical Assistance Act. The Act is governed by The Illinois Department on Aging <http://www.state.il.us/aging/> to provide assistance to senior citizens and persons with disabilities. The Illinois Department on Aging

1. administers the Circuit Breaker program that provides grants to help offset the cost of property taxes,
2. enrolls qualifying individuals in the Illinois Cares Rx program (formerly Circuit Breaker Pharmaceutical Assistance and SeniorCare) that provides "wrap around" benefits with the new Medicare Part D prescription drug program and
3. authorizes the Secretary of State Office to send discounted license plate stickers.

Circuit Breaker provides low-income, senior or disabled, residents with yearly grants to help pay property taxes. The amount of the grant is determined by a formula, which takes into account your property taxes or rent receipts and your household income. When applying for Circuit Breaker you will still automatically apply for the Illinois License Plate Discount program.

To qualify for a Circuit Breaker grant

- ◆ you must meet the maximum household income guidelines
- ◆ be age 65 before January 1 of the assessment year.
- ◆ if you reach 65 during the assessment year, you may be eligible for a grant covering the months you in which you qualify
- ◆ you must live in Illinois at the time you file and have been subject to property taxes during the assessment year.

You can obtain a Circuit Breaker application from the County Clerk's office in Woodstock, your public library or download one here <http://www.cbrx.il.gov/>

Get assistance with your Circuit Breaker application by making an appointment with the AARP Tax-Aide Program or contact Senior Services at 344-3555 for help filling out your application and on-line filing. In-home appointments are available to homebound seniors.

The Pharmaceutical Assistance portion of the Circuit Breaker program will be combined and will become Illinois Cares Rx. For people currently in one of these programs, the state will automatically transition them into a Medicare prescription drug plan. More information can be obtained by calling 1-800-252-8966 or by visiting <http://www.IllinoisBenefits.org> on the web.