

BEFORE THE TAX COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF IDAHO

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|------------------|
| In the Matter of the Protest of |) | |
| |) | DOCKET NO. 21501 |
| [REDACTED], |) | |
| |) | DECISION |
| Petitioner. |) | |
| _____ |) | |

This case arises from a timely protest of a State Tax Commission staff (staff) decision adjusting the property tax reduction benefit for 2008. This matter was submitted for a decision based on the documents in the file. The State Tax Commission has reviewed the file and makes its decision.

All property within the jurisdiction of this state is subject to property tax. A property tax reduction benefit program is available to certain qualifying individuals throughout the state. The benefit is in the form of a payment (either total or partial) of the applicant's property tax on the dwelling he/she owns and occupies. The payment is funded by state sales tax funds.

[Redacted] (petitioners) filed an application with [Redacted] County for the property tax reduction benefit on April 1, 2008. The [Redacted] County Assessor's office sent that application, together with other information, to the Tax Commission for review and processing. Pursuant to Idaho Code § 63-707(5), the staff audited that application.

In conjunction with the audit, the petitioners were asked to complete a medical expense form and furnish receipts for the \$17,247 of medical expenses they had claimed in their application. The petitioners answered the request by sending a computer printout from a pharmacy and several health care providers, copies of prescriptions, and various canceled checks.

The petitioners' file was transferred to the Legal/Tax Policy Division for administrative review.

Income for property tax reduction benefit purposes is defined in Idaho Code § 63-701(5) as follows:

(5) "Income" means the sum of federal adjusted gross income as defined in the Internal Revenue Code, as defined in section 63-3004, Idaho Code, and to the extent not already included in federal adjusted gross income:

- (a) Alimony;
- (b) Support money;
- (c) Nontaxable strike benefits;
- (d) The nontaxable amount of any individual retirement account, pension or annuity, (including railroad retirement benefits, all payments received under the federal social security act except the social security death benefit as specified in this subsection, state unemployment insurance laws, and veterans disability pensions and compensation, excluding rollovers as provided in section 402 or 403 of the Internal Revenue Code);
- (e) Nontaxable interest received from the federal government or any of its instrumentalities or a state government or any of its instrumentalities;
- (f) Worker's compensation; and
- (g) The gross amount of loss of earnings insurance.

It does not include capital gains, gifts from nongovernmental sources or inheritances. To the extent not reimbursed, the cost of medical care as defined in section 213(d) of the Internal Revenue Code, incurred or paid by the claimant and/or, if applicable, the claimant's spouse, may be deducted from income. To the extent not reimbursed, personal funeral expenses, including prepaid funeral expenses and premiums on funeral insurance, of the claimant and claimant's spouse only, may be deducted from income up to an annual maximum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per claim. "Income" does not include veterans disability pensions received by a person described in subsection (1)(e) who is a claimant or a claimant's spouse if the disability pension is received pursuant to a service-connected disability of a degree of forty percent (40%) or more. "Income" does not include lump sum death benefits made by the social security administration pursuant to 42 U.S.C. section 402(i).

Documentation of medical expenses may be required by the county assessor, board of equalization and state tax

commission in such form as the county assessor, board of equalization or state tax commission shall determine. "Income"

shall be that received in the calendar year immediately preceding the year in which a claim is filed. (Emphasis added.)

For property tax reduction benefit purposes, medical expenses defined in the Internal Revenue Code are deducted from income. The Tax Commission has reviewed the receipts and additional documentation the petitioners provided and determined the \$17,247 of medical expenses claimed qualifies for exclusion from income. The petitioners' total net income for property tax reduction benefit purposes is \$20,891. They qualify to receive a benefit of an amount not to exceed **\$620** for 2008.

WHEREFORE, the Intent to Change Benefits letter dated October 6, 2008, is hereby CANCELLED.

An explanation of the petitioner's right to appeal this decision is enclosed.

DATED this _____ day of _____, 2008.

IDAHO STATE TAX COMMISSION

COMMISSIONER

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this _____ day of _____, 2008, a copy of the within and foregoing DECISION was served by sending the same by United States mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to:

[REDACTED]

Receipt No.
