

BEFORE THE TAX COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF IDAHO

In the Matter of the Protest of)
[Redacted],) DOCKET NO. 26026
)
)
Petitioners.) DECISION
)
_____)

This case arises from a timely protest of a State Tax Commission staff decision denying the property tax reduction benefit for 2013. 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.

[Redacted](petitioners) filed a property tax reduction benefit application [Redacted] for the property tax reduction benefit on April 1, 2013. The assessor’s office forwarded the application to the Tax Commission for review and processing. In conjunction with the review, the petitioners were asked to provide receipts for the \$10,800 of medical expenses claimed. The petitioners responded with a letter of protest and provided documentation concerning the claimed medical expenses. The additional documentation was reviewed and the staff determined that \$8,393 of the \$10,800 of medical expenses claimed in the application had been supported by receipts. Because a timely appeal was filed and the information provided did not resolve the matter, the file was transferred to the Legal/Tax Policy Division for administrative review. The tax policy specialist sent the petitioners a letter advising them of their appeal rights. The petitioners neither requested a hearing, nor did they provide any additional information.

All property within the jurisdiction of this state is subject to property tax. A property tax reduction benefit is available to certain qualifying individuals throughout the state. The benefit

is in the form of payment of a portion or all of an applicant's property tax on the dwelling he/she owns and occupies. The payment is funded by state sales tax.

The amount of property tax reduction depends on income—the greater the income, the smaller the benefit. However, income is defined differently for the property tax reduction benefit program than it is described in the income tax code. Income for the purpose of the property tax reduction benefit is defined in Idaho Code §63-701(5):

(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 any return of principal paid by the recipient of an annuity and 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 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, if married, 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 dependency and indemnity compensation or death benefits paid to a person described in subsection (1) of this section by the United States department of veterans affairs and arising from a service-connected death or disability. "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. Where a claimant and/or the claimant's spouse does not file a federal tax return, the claimant's and/or the claimant's spouse's federal adjusted gross income, for purposes of this section, shall be an income equivalent to federal adjusted gross income had the claimant and/or the claimant's spouse filed a federal tax return, as determined by the county assessor. The county assessor, board of equalization or state tax commission may require documentation of income in such form as each shall determine, including, but not limited to: copies of federal or state tax returns and any attachments thereto; and income reporting forms such as the W2 and 1099. (Emphasis added.)

The petitioners' 2012 income consisted of Social Security income of \$22,032 for [Redacted] and \$7,056 for [Redacted] for a total of \$29,088. When the allowable medical expenses of \$8,393 are subtracted, the petitioners' total 2012 net income for property tax reduction benefit purposes is \$20,695. This qualifies the petitioners for a property tax benefit not to exceed **\$660**.

THEREFORE, the Intent to Deny Property Tax Reduction Benefit letter dated October 8, 2013, is hereby MODIFIED and as modified, APPROVED, and MADE FINAL.

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

DATED this _____ day of _____ 2014.

IDAHO STATE TAX COMMISSION

COMMISSIONER

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this _____ day of _____ 2014, 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.
