



DEPARTMENT FOR THE AGING
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
2 LAFAYETTE STREET
New York, New York 10007-1392

Edwin Méndez-Santiago, LCSW
Commissioner

CONTACT:
Christopher Miller
Mira Browne
(212) 442-1111
cmiller@aging.nyc.gov

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—*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption Program (SCRIE) Income Eligibility Increases to \$28,000

*SCRIE 'freezes' rent allowing seniors to remain in their apartments;
Applications are available at ACCESS NYC or by calling 311*

NEW YORK, NY – July 1, 2008 – Department for the Aging (DFTA) Commissioner Edwin Méndez-Santiago, LCSW today announced that the income eligibility level for the Senior Citizens Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) Program increased to \$28,000, an increase from \$27,000 in July, 2007. New York City tenants aged 62 and over, with a combined income of \$28,000 living in rent controlled or rent stabilized housing, may be eligible to apply for the SCRIE Program— helping them to remain in affordable housing.

“I urge all seniors in rent controlled and rent stabilized apartments to apply for this vital benefit,” said Commissioner Méndez-Santiago. “Today, more than 44,500 older adults are able to remain in their community and afford their apartments because of SCRIE. Applications are available at ACCESS NYC or by calling 311.”

The SCRIE Program, administered by DFTA, was initiated in 1970 by the City of New York. SCRIE is a State authorized entitlement, which enables eligible seniors, who live in rent controlled or rent stabilized apartments or certain residential hotel units, to receive an exemption from paying future increases in their rent. Landlords and management agents receive tax abatement credits in lieu of cash for any rent increase. Under Local Law 75, signed by Mayor Bloomberg in 2005, the income eligibility threshold of the SCRIE Program will increase \$1,000 per year until it reaches \$29,000 in 2009.

The 2008 Senior Citizens Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) Requirements are:

- For rent-stabilized apartments, tenants must have a valid one or two-year lease.
- Rent must be at least 1/3 of net monthly income.
- Head of household must be 62 or older.
- Assets: No limit.
- Income: \$28,000 household total.

Applications for the SCRIE program are available at ACCESS NYC or by calling 311.

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