



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption Program (SCRIE) Income Eligibility Increased to \$29,000

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

NEW YORK, NY – Department for the Aging (DFTA) Commissioner Lilliam Barrios-Paoli and Department of Finance Acting Commissioner Michael Hyman today announced that the income eligibility level for the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) Program increased to \$29,000, an increase from \$28,000 in July 2008. New York City tenants age 62 and older, with a combined income of \$29,000, living in rent controlled or rent stabilized housing, may be eligible to apply for the SCRIE Program — helping them to remain in affordable housing in their community.

A Local Law signed by Mayor Bloomberg on June 29, 2009 transfers administration of SCRIE from DFTA to the Department of Finance over the next few months to take advantage of Finance’s access to income and other data, which will simplify the application process. SCRIE applications remain available at ACCESS NYC or by calling 311.

“I urge all seniors in rent controlled and rent stabilized apartments to apply for this benefit,” said Commissioner Barrios-Paoli. “Today, more than 44,000 older adults are able to remain in their community and afford their apartments because of SCRIE.

“Seniors have contributed so much to New York City and will continue to do so if we help them stay in their apartments,” Acting Finance Commissioner Hyman said. “I look forward to working with the Department for the Aging to help thousands of seniors receive the rent freeze that SCRIE provides.”

The SCRIE Program 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 has increased \$1,000 per year from \$24,000 to \$29,000.

The 2009 Senior Citizen 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 age 62 or older.
- Assets: No limit.
- Income: \$29,000 household total.

Applications for the SCRIE program are available at ACCESS NYC (www.nyc.gov/accessnyc) or by calling 311.