

2011 Program Report Card: Elderly and Totally Disabled Renters' Rebate Program (Connecticut Office of Policy and Management)

Quality of Life Result: Provide funds to elderly and totally disabled individuals with limited income to partially offset the cost of rent and utilities.

Contribution to the Result: The Renters' Rebate Program provides income limited individuals with the funds necessary to assist with rent and utility expenses.

Total Program Funding SFY10: \$ 24,000,000

State Funding: \$ 24,000,000

Federal Funding: \$ 0

Other Funding: \$ 0

Total Program Funding SFY11: \$ 24,000,000

State Funding: \$ 24,000,000

Federal Funding: \$ 0

Other Funding: \$ 0

Partners: Connecticut Dept. of Social Services, Municipal Elderly/Social Service Agencies, Municipal Assessors, landlords, employers, social service agencies, advocacy groups, and family and clients.

Performance Measure 1: Individual participation and total program payments for past 3 fiscal years.

FY	2008	2009	2010
applicants	38,740	41,559	43,981
payment	18,205,716	20,099,474	21,844,938

Note: FY 2007 data was used to calculate the FY 2008 applicant and payment amounts but not included in the above table.

Story behind the baseline: Participation in the Renters' Rebate Program and total payments have increased significantly over the past 3 years. As the general population ages and the "baby boomer" generation migrates towards rental property and away from home ownership this Program will continue to increase. In 1995 there were over 48,000 applicants for the Elderly and Totally Disabled Homeowners' Program. In 2009 there were 38,900 applicants. A 19% decrease. This paralleled the increase of elderly/totally disabled renters. In 1995 there were 24,434 applicants for the Renters' Rebate Program. In 2009 there were 41,559 applicants. A 70 % increase.

Proposed actions to turn the curve: As the aging population increases and elderly and totally disabled home ownership decreases fiscal emphasis may need to be shifted towards eligible individuals who rent their domicile.

Performance Measure 2: Participation and total payment increase over the past 3 fiscal years.

FY	2008	2009	2010
App. % increase	8.5	7.3	5.8
\$ % increase	14.1	10.4	8.7

Note: FY 2007 data was used to calculate the FY 2008 applicant % increase and % payment increase amounts but not included in the above table.

Story behind the baseline: Similar to performance measure number 1 this performance measure reflects participation and payment on a percentage basis over the past 3 fiscal years.

Proposed actions to turn the curve:
Not applicable.

Performance Measure 3: Average payment per applicant and percentage increase.

FY	2008	2009	2010
Avg. payment	\$ 469.95	\$ 483.64	\$496.70
% increase	5.2	2.9	2.7

Note: FY 2007 data was used to calculate the FY 2008 average payment amounts and % increase but not included in the above table.

Story behind the baseline: The statute under which this program is administered provides for an adjustment to the "Qualifying Income" used as a basis to determine the benefit amount an applicant may receive. The annual adjustment to the Qualifying Income amount is based on the annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) determined by the Social Security Administration.

Proposed actions to turn the curve:
Not applicable.

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Performance Measure 4: Benefit to Income ratio.

FY	2008	2009	2010
Benefit (max.)	\$ 900	\$ 900	\$ 900
Max. Income	\$14,900	\$ 15,200	\$ 16,100
Ratio	.0604	.0592	.0559

Note: FY 2007 data was used to calculate the FY 2008 benefit to income ratio but not included in the above table.

Story behind the baseline: The Qualifying Income for applicants is increased annually by the Social Security Administration, Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). The maximum benefit remains the same as it has for many years. This results in a lower benefit to income ratio for the applicant. In 1973, the year of enactment of the Program, the maximum benefit was \$500 and the Qualifying Income was \$3,000. In 2010 the maximum benefit is \$ 900 and the Qualifying Income is \$ 16,100. Since 1973 the Qualifying Income has increased more than 500% while the benefit has increased 80%. Additionally, the costs for rent and utilities have increased more than 500% since 1973.

Proposed actions to turn the curve: In order to maintain the benefit to income ratio the maximum benefit would have to be increased in conjunction with the increase in Qualifying Income dollar amounts.