# Standard Homestead Exemption for Veterans with Disabilities - Frequently Asked Questions and Answers.

**Q1**: Who is eligible for the Standard Homestead Exemption for Veterans with Disabilities?

**A1**: Veterans rated 30% Service-Connected Disability or higher OR Surviving Spouses of Veterans whose Veteran Spouse had previously been receiving the property tax benefits.

**Q2**: What are the Standard Homestead Exemption for Veterans with Disabilities?

**A2**: There is a sliding scale for the amount of assessment reduction based on the level of disability.

- Veterans rated 30-49%- Receive $2,500 off their Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) for their primary residence (residence must be under $250k EAV).
- Veterans rated 50-69%- Receive $5,000 off their Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) for their primary residence (residence must be under $250k EAV).
- Veterans rated 70% and higher (with or without Individual Unemployability)- Receive 100% (total) Property Tax Exemption for their primary residence (residence must be under $250k EAV).
- Surviving Spouses of a Veteran who had previously been receiving the property tax benefits will receive the Benefit the Veteran Spouse was receiving at the time of Death (residence must be under $250k EAV)

**Q3**: What if my residence EAV is greater than $250,000?

**A3**: As the law is currently written, Veterans with a residence of EAV more than $250k do not qualify for any Disabled Veteran Property tax reduction or exemption. There may be other property tax benefits that are eligible, visit **Tax Relief | Lake County, IL** for more information.

**Q4**: I am a Surviving Spouse receiving DIC, but my veteran spouse did not qualify for and/or did not apply for the exemption/reductions prior to his death, am I eligible?

**A4**: At this time, only Surviving Spouses whose Veteran spouse was eligible and receiving the Disabled Veteran Exemption/Reduction are eligible. There is movement in the legislature to add the Spouses of Veterans who qualify for Dependents Indemnity Compensation, specifically from Lake County's own Representative Joyce Mason (House Bill 2378). For Surviving Spouses in this category, please keep watch for these bills and once enacted apply for your exemption promptly. Further, all Veterans and Spouses should contact their **State** Representatives and **State** Senators and urge them to pass House Bill 2378 **AS WRITTEN** and send it to the Governor for signature and approval without delay!

**Q5**: How do I apply for the Standard Homestead Exemption for Veterans with Disabilities?

**A5**: Eligible Veterans and Spouses currently need to apply annually. The easiest way is to file your application online on the Lake County Tax Assessor Smart e-file portal (**Login (tylertech.com)**). You will need a current benefits letter dated in 2021 indicating your SC % or DIC. You can obtain this benefits letter by calling the VA National Call Center at 1-800-827-1000 or through your **eBenefits** account.

For more information about the Standard Homestead Exemption for Veterans with Disabilities, or other Property Tax Relief please check the Lake County Assessment Office website at **| Lake County, IL** or call 847-377-2050.