



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Department of Housing
and Community Development

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Deadline approaching to file for Virginia's Livable Homes Tax Credit Tax credit available for purchase or retrofitting of accessible housing

Richmond, VA – According to the U.S. Census, more than 950,000 Virginians have one or more disabilities. By the year 2025, more than 25 percent of Virginians will be over the age of 60, and the number of Virginians aged 85 or older will increase five times faster than the state's total population growth.

In 2008, the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) began administering Virginia's Livable Home Tax Credit (LHTC) program, designed to improve accessibility and universal visitability in Virginia's residential units by providing state tax credits, up to \$500, for the purchase of a new residence and up to 25 percent in tax credits for the cost of retrofitting existing units, not to exceed \$500.

The deadline to apply is Feb. 28, 2009 for work completed during the 2008 tax year.

"For many Virginians, the focus on accessible housing is becoming increasingly important," said Shea Hollifield, deputy director of the Division of Housing for DHCD. "This program is designed to help people with disabilities, or those planning to age-in-place to more easily afford accessible housing."

Eligibility is not dependent on income. Anyone filing Virginia individual income tax refunds who has incurred costs for the purchase of new residential units with accessibility or universal visitability features is eligible for the program under the following guidelines:

- Eligible purchase or retrofitting expenses cannot be claimed by more than one taxpayer;
- New residential units must include three features of the *universal visitability* standards, or include at least three *accessibility features*;
- Existing units being retrofitted must include at least one *accessibility feature*;
- All accessibility and universal visitability features must be completed in conformity with the provisions of Virginia's Uniform Statewide Building Code;
- Documentation must be submitted with the application. In the case of the purchase of a new residential unit, a copy of the executed sales contract must be attached; and
- For retrofitting, a scope of work, work specifications, construction contracts, invoices and/or cancelled checks documenting the type of work, cost and payment must be provided.

Accessible housing standards vary depending on whether the unit is new or if an existing unit is

being retro-fitted to provide accessibility. For more information on the standards and to download LHTC application forms, visit: www.dhcd.virginia.gov/lhtc.

DHCD is committed to creating safe, affordable, and prosperous communities to live, work and do business in Virginia. DHCD partners with Virginia's communities to develop their economic potential, regulates Virginia's building and fire codes, provides training and certification for building officials and support for Virginia's homeless, and invests more than \$100 million each year into housing and community development projects throughout the state. By partnering with local governments, nonprofit groups, state and federal agencies, and others, DHCD is working to improve the quality of life for Virginians.

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