

Office of the Governor

NEWS RELEASE

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GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES 1997 HOMESTEAD REBATE MAILING; EMPHASIZES COMMITMENT TO MAKING STATE MORE AFFORDABLE

Gov. Christie Whitman emphasized her commitment to making New Jersey more affordable by cutting taxes and helping senior citizens when she visited the state facility in West Trenton where this year's Homestead Rebate checks are being printed. The Governor announced that approximately 1, 232, 239 checks, totaling \$304, 457, 848 will be mailed, starting Friday, to eligible New Jersey residents for 1997.

"These checks are important sources of much-needed income for eligible citizens of New Jersey," the Governor said. "Homestead Rebate checks are doing just what they are intended to do -- providing money and relief to eligible citizens, including seniors, the blind and those with disabilities. "During the past four-and-a-half years, we have cut taxes 17 times and I am committed to continuing to work with the legislature and with local officials to find ways of providing further property tax relief for the people of New Jersey."

The checks are being printed at the Office of Telecommunications and Information Systems Hub Building in West Trenton. The average check for the 1997 Homestead Rebates is for \$247.08, an increase of \$3.59 over the average 1996 rebate checks.

Eligible recipients include senior citizens who are 65 or older, residents who are blind or disabled, and those under 65 who earn less than \$40,000. Persons interested in learning the status of their Homestead Rebate checks can call the automated Homestead Rebate Information Line at 1-800-323-4400.