

# NEW YORK STATE HISTORIC HOMEOWNERSHIP REHABILITATION TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

## HELP FOR HOMEOWNERS OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

If you are the owner of a house that is listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places individually or is contributing to a listed/ certified historic district AND is located in an eligible census tract, you may qualify for a state historic tax credit equal to 20% of the repair costs.

### PROGRAM CRITERIA:

- You must own and live in the house.
- The repair costs must exceed \$5,000 and you must spend at least 5% on exterior work.
- There is a \$50,000 cap on the credit— \$250,000 in eligible expenses.
- All the work must be approved by the Division for Historic Preservation before you begin.
- Work must meet the Secretary of the Interior Standards, which are a set of guidelines that focus on repairing historic materials, retaining character-defining features, replacing missing or damage materials in-kind, and preserving important interior spaces.
- The credit does not cover work outside the house, such as landscaping, fencing and new additions.

For more information please visit, [www.nysparks.ny.gov/shpo/tax-credit-programs/](http://www.nysparks.ny.gov/shpo/tax-credit-programs/) or call 518-268-2213 to speak to the division staff member who covers your municipality.

### ELIGIBLE EXPENSES:

Exterior and interior work is eligible and you can undertake a variety of repairs and/or replacements as long as the work does not significantly change your house's overall historic appearance, including but not limited to:

- Structural systems, including foundations, floor joists and ceiling and attic rafters.
- Roofs, including roof coverings, rafters, fascia, soffits, gutters and downspouts.
- Interior work, including floors, walls, stairs, ceilings and trim around windows and doors.
- Utility systems, including heating, ventilation, air conditioning, electrical and plumbing systems as well as fire safety and security systems.
- Windows and doors, including glass, frames, shutters, hardware and storm windows.
- Exterior walls, cornices, porches and foundations, including siding, dormers, brackets, columns, railings, stairs, window and door trim, concrete or masonry walls and chimneys.
- Weatherproofing, including caulking, weather-stripping and some insulation upgrades.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **If I want to apply for the credit, what should I do?**

For more information, an application, or to find out if your house is eligible, please visit, [www.nysparks.ny.gov/shpo/tax-credit-programs/](http://www.nysparks.ny.gov/shpo/tax-credit-programs/) or call 518-268-2213 to speak to the Division staff.

## **Can I make my house more energy efficient?**

Yes. As long as the work does not alter the house's overall historic appearance. High efficient heating systems, solar installation, insulation, and other weatherization projects may be eligible expenses. Please note that existing wood windows can be made more energy efficient with proper repair, including the installation of weather stripping and interior or exterior storm windows, which are additionally eligible.

## **Can I replace my windows?**

Window replacement is an eligible expense if the existing windows are not historic or cannot be repaired due to severe deterioration. You must provide photographs of the windows to show their condition and the proposed replacements must be approved by the division. Vinyl or vinyl clad windows are generally not acceptable. If you are approved for replacements, staff will request a cut-sheet of the proposed windows.

## **Can I install vinyl siding on my house?**

Replacing repairable historic material is never recommended; however, if the historic material cannot be repaired because of the extent of the damage, we recommend that the material is replaced in-kind. The use of modern materials over existing wood or masonry may lead to future moisture damage to the structure and will diminish the historic appearance of the building.

## **Can I use the credit if I have a rental unit in my house?**

Yes. Generally, only the work associated with the homeowner-occupied portion of the house is eligible. There is a formula to include repairs of the property to areas of the home that are shared with your tenants. Please contact your division representative for more information. Additionally, your house may be eligible for historic preservation tax incentives for commercial properties.

## **When can I take the tax credit?**

This state income tax credit is taken in the year that the owner receives a Certification of Completion from the Division for Historic Preservation; the certificate is issued when work is completed and Part 3 of the tax credit application is submitted and approved.

## **What if I am unable to use all/any of the credit?**

The credit can be carried over to subsequent years until it is used. If your household adjusted gross income is below \$60,000, the unused credit can be taken as a refund.

## **Can I pass the credit on to a new buyer?**

Yes. If you receive certification for the completed work, or approval of Part 3 of the application, and want to pass the entire credit on to the first purchaser, you may. The buyer needs to live in the house, and needs to claim the credit within five years of certification. This can be useful if you are selling the house or for an organization, that does not pay taxes, to rehabilitate historic buildings and improve neighborhoods.