

## Seniors, veterans need assistance from IRS (The News Journal)

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It may be difficult to believe but some 18,000 Delawareans, who are eligible, have not applied for the federal tax rebate stimulus checks.

The problem is that many of these are qualifying retirees and veterans, who because of their low-income don't have to file income taxes.

Last week the Internal Revenue Service identified this group and targeted it with the message that it not too late to beat the Oct. 15 cutoff for the nontaxable rebate income.

The agency is sending out a second notice to 5.2 million citizens, including to those who have no income to report for 2007.

Delawareans who are enrolled in Social Security or receiving benefits from the Veterans Administration of at least \$3,000 annually qualify to receive between \$300 to \$600 for individuals and \$1,200 for joint filers.

Rep. Michael N. Castle says it seems ignorance of the filing process may be off-putting to this group.

He joined local IRS officials Monday at the Mid-County Senior Citizens Center office to get the word out to these mostly senior citizens that there is free help available to fill out the required 1040A form.

Getting this money into the hands of every American has been the Bush administration strategy to jolt some life into the country's struggling local economies.

These taxpayers' filing habits have been well known to the IRS. It's unfortunate that the agency is just now rolling out an outreach effort that should have been in place months ago.

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