

Town of Wenham

Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off Program

Overview

The Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off Program offers Wenham seniors aged 60+ the opportunity to earn an abatement on their real estate property tax bill. The hourly wage is \$11.00 and the maximum annual abatement cannot exceed \$1,500.00.

The positions available through this program are in various departments throughout the Town. Job placements will likely be made with the Town Clerk's Office, Town Finance Office, Town Permitting Office, Council on Aging, and the Hamilton Wenham Regional Library. Attempts will be made to match the placement with the applicant's interests and qualifications.

Criteria

It is important to note that the following criteria are considered when determining eligibility:

- Participants must be Wenham residents who own and occupy their home.
- Participants must be 60 years of age or older by July 1st of the fiscal year for which the tax credit will be granted.
- Acceptance into the program is on a first come, first served and is subject to the ability of the Town to place the applicant in an available position. The Town will also limit annual participation to no more than \$15,000.00/year in total abatements granted through this program.

Application and Placement Process

Applications are available on the Town website, www.wenhamma.gov and at the Council on Aging located at 10 School Street. Completed applications should be submitted to the Council on Aging Director, Jim Reynolds, who will conduct initial applicant screening and verify departmental staffing needs. Applicants may be asked to meet with members of the department in which they are interested in working.

Program Details

Once placed, program participants will then:

- Meet with the Finance Office to complete the necessary W4, I9, OBRA (Social Security alternative), and Criminal Offender Record Information forms
- Receive training on their job responsibilities and expectations from their supervisor
- Establish a mutually acceptable schedule with their supervisor
- Begin working for their assigned department
- Keep a log of their hours with the dates and times to be retained by the supervisor
- After all hours are completed, the work log must be signed off by the program participant and their supervisor in order to process the abatement

Abatement Details

Abatements granted as part of the senior work off program are considered compensation, and are therefore taxable. The abatement amount is subject to Medicare and OBRA, and may be subject to federal income tax if you have other sources of income beyond Social Security.

Participants will receive a W-2 form at the end of the year that will reflect the value of the granted abatement less the total deductions (OBRA, Medicare, federal income tax, if applicable). The W-2 will then need to be filed with your 2017 federal income tax return if you are required to file. Once you no longer participate in the Senior Work-off Program, you may withdraw from the OBRA program. Any contributions and interest earned on the OBRA program becomes your money; however, it may be considered taxable income.

Applicants who do not adhere to the Town's policies and procedures of general application or who do not satisfactorily perform the work assigned may be subject to dismissal.

Town of Wenham
Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off Program Application

Name of Applicant	
Address	
Phone	
Email	

Emergency Contact (Name, relationship, contact information)

What are your past experiences and types of skills?

Please share any hobbies and/or interests that can help us in determining appropriate placement.

Do you have any restrictions or needs which may affect your position (ie. physical requirements, seasonal schedule, limited hours, etc)?

How many hours do you plan to volunteer (ie. do you anticipate completing all 136 hours to maximize your abatement or do you plan to work a lesser amount)?

If accepted into the Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off Program:

- I agree to comply with the Town's policies and procedures of general application.
- To the best of my knowledge, all the information provided on this application is true and complete. I understand that the Town of Wenham may verify this information as needed.

Signature: _____

Date: _____