

TOWN OF HUNTINGTON
Senior Tax Work Off Abatement Program
(M.G.L. Chapter 59, Section 5K)
FY 2018

Application forms are now available in Town Hall and online at huntingtonma.us for the Senior Tax Work Off Program for Fiscal Year 2018. Tax reduction amount will be applied to February 1, 2018 or May 1, 2018 property tax bill (depending on when hours are completed). Under this program, taxpayers who are 60 years of age or older may earn a real estate tax reduction of \$500 per fiscal year at a rate of \$11.00 per hour (state minimum wage) for up to 46 hours of work. The program is administered by the Huntington Selectboard and the Huntington Board of Assessors.

Eligibility Requirements

- **Age:** Must be **60 years** of age and older.
- **Ownership and Occupancy:** Must be assessed owner or have a life estate on the property as of January 1, 2017 or, if the property is subject to a trust, the senior must have legal title, (i.e. be one of the trustees) to the property on January 1, 2017. Where there is a question, the Board of Assessors will make the final determination. You must have owned and occupied property/properties in Huntington as your domicile(s) for the preceding 5 years. **Must be current with payment of all town taxes, including water and sewer, for all prior fiscal years.**

How to Apply

- **Application:** File the application with the Selectboard Office, P. O. Box 430, Huntington, MA by the deadline of **February 17, 2017**.
- **Eligibility:** Real estate ownership will be reviewed by the Town of Huntington Board of Assessors. Applicants who do not meet requirements will be notified in writing by the Assessors' office.
- **Selection Process:** Selection of eligible applicants will take place at a Selectboard meeting by the Chair or designee. Applicants that are selected will be notified by the Administrative Assistant that they have been selected and must complete a Criminal Records Information (CORI) check and Program Acknowledgement form. Other applicants will receive a letter that they have not been chosen.
- **Job Placement:** Applicant will be matched to a town department, board, or committee offering volunteer positions and will be given a time sheet to be initialed by the volunteer and supervisor(s).

General Information

- **Maximum Abatement and Hourly Rate:** The maximum abatement taxpayers may earn is **\$500 per fiscal year** at a rate of \$11.00 per hour. Taxpayers will be credited for up to **46 hours** of work to receive the abatement in the maximum amount of \$500. If the maximum hours are not completed, credit received will be based on the number of hours worked. Any hours worked after the 46 hours are strictly voluntary, and can not be used for the Tax Work-Off Program.
- **Participation:** The tax credit can be awarded to a maximum of 8 seniors per fiscal year, depending on job availability in town departments. The taxpayer must submit an application by **February 17, 2017 and complete work by February 26, 2018**. Program selection is valid for one fiscal year. *Seniors may not participate in the program the following year unless insufficient applications are received, in which case prior senior volunteers would be eligible.*

If a selected owner of the parcel cannot fulfill the commitment for all hours, at the determination of the Selectboard, another owner of the same property may complete the program if he/she meets eligibility criteria and meets the requirement of the position. If a volunteer leaves the program before the full number of hours worked, and no other parcel owner can complete the hours, those un-worked hours are forfeited. Credit will be given only for hours worked.

For those who are physically unable to provide a service to the town, an approved representative may apply to do the work on their behalf.

- **Certification:** At the time that the senior has worked up to 46 hours or voluntarily ends participation in the program, the department director will complete a certificate of completion with the number of hours worked, and the amount of the tax credit earned by the senior, and will forward it to the Selectboard. A copy of the certification will be given to the Town Treasurer and Board of Assessors.

Certification must be completed by February 26, 2018.

Important Information

- **If you qualify for the state Circuit Breaker Credit, the amount you may be eligible for could be affected by participation in this program.**
- **You are still eligible for any real estate exemptions that you apply for and receive that are based on age or military service.**
- **If you are a veteran age 60 or over, you are eligible to also apply for the Veteran Tax Work Off Abatement Program.**

TOWN OF HUNTINGTON
Senior Tax Work Off Abatement Program
FY 2018
Confidential Application for Participation

Full Name: _____

Mailing Address & Address of Property (if different):

Daytime/Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Emergency Contact:

Name: _____ Relationship: _____ Phone #: _____

Placement Information:

In order to assist with placement, please describe your past work, jobs, experiences, computer skills, other types of skills you have, hobbies or interests, are you creative, good with numbers or finances, enjoy reading and/or writing, physical labor:

If you have computer skills, how proficient are you and what programs are you familiar with? _____

Are there any physical limitations that need to be considered in placing you? _____

Hours available: Mornings: _____ Afternoons: _____

Days of the week that you are available: _____

How many hours can you work each day? _____ Each week? _____

Is there a department or board you prefer? *(Examples: Town Clerk, Collector, Selectboard, Treasurer, Health Board, Library, Highway, Fire, Recreation/Community Events, Planning Board, Zoning Board, Finance, Memorial Day Committee, Council on Aging)*

Why? _____

PLEASE SIGN BELOW:

As a participant in the Work Off program, I understand that I may earn a maximum of \$500 credit to be applied to my Town of Huntington property tax bill. I further understand that I have Federal tax obligations and this reduction in property taxes may affect my eligibility for the State Circuit Breaker Credit.

SIGNED UNDER THE PAINS AND PENALTIES OF PERJURY:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return by February 17, 2017 to:

**TOWN OF HUNTINGTON, SELECTBOARD OFFICE,
P. O. BOX 430, 24 RUSSELL ROAD, HUNTINGTON, MA 01050
(413) 667-3500**