



**CITY OF CHELSEA, MA**  
**Human Resources Department**

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## **Senior Tax Work Off Program FAQs**

Updated January 8, 2024

### **How do I apply?**

To qualify you must be sixty (60) years of age or older by January 1, 2024 and meet residency guidelines. As of January 2020, there are no longer any income requirements. For specific information call the Human Resources Department at 617-466-4172. Applications may be obtained at the Senior Center, 10 Riley Way, Chelsea, MA 02150 or Chelsea City Hall, Human Resources Department, Room 301, Chelsea, MA 02150; or downloaded from City of Chelsea website.

### **What is the time-frame of the program?**

The program begins on February 1, 2024 and runs through October 31, 2024. You may accumulate up to 100 hours worked between February 1 and October 31, which will be credited towards your January 2025 tax bill. You must reapply every year and meet the requirements each time you apply. Working less than 100 hours will be pro-rated accordingly.

### **What are the qualifications?**

- Must be 60 years of age or older
- Must be owner occupied (or spouse of owner)
- Must be beneficiary or trustee on deed of said property
- Seniors will receive a record of their credit against their property tax bill. The rate will be credited at the State minimum wage per hour worked (\$15.00 per hour). (MGL ch.59 Section 5K)
- All hours worked must be completed by the participant. No other person can work on the senior's behalf to fulfill hours
- As of January 1, 2020, there are no longer any income requirements

### **What about withholding taxes?**

Money earned through the Tax Work-Off Program is reportable income for federal taxes only. Participants will receive a W-2 form for the amount of money earned through the program.

### **Will I have to report the income?**

Yes, you will be given a W-4 Form, in which federal taxes, FICA, and Medicare will be deducted. You will also receive a W-2 Form that reflects the hours worked, which will need to be reported to the IRS as income.

**Do I need to reapply every year?**

Yes, you will need to reapply every year and you must meet the guidelines including income every year. This year, the application deadline is January 31, 2024.

**What if I cannot work the hours all at once?**

You have from February through end of October to complete up to the 100 hours. A time sheet is kept by the department head and the Human Resources department. Work schedules can be stopped and restarted for any reason.

**How many abatements am I allowed?**

You are allowed to apply for multiple abatements, but you must pay a minimum of 10% of your total tax bill.

**Are there a limited number of openings?**

Yes, this program is limited to 25 applicants per year. The deadline to apply is January 31, 2024. A lottery will be held if the number of applicants exceeds 25. All lottery participants will be notified by U.S. certified mail regarding the results of the lottery. Program participants will be contacted for scheduling and duties.

**When will I receive my Abatement?**

You will receive your abatement on your January tax bill of the following calendar year. If you worked beginning February 1 and ended before October 31, your abatement would be applied to your January 2025 tax bill.

**What is the impact of COVID 19 on this program?**

Covid 19 continues to have an impact in our daily lives, including work. This also continues to impact our Senior Tax Work Off Program by limiting the current opportunities available to participants. Please know that we will make every effort to place you in a position that follows appropriate Covid 19 protocols. Suitable positions may not be immediately available, but know that we will contact you as soon as one does become available.