



CITY OF CHELSEA, MA
Human Resources Department

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Veterans Tax Work Off Program FAQs

Updated January 8, 2024

How do I apply?

To qualify you must meet veteran status and income requirements as well as residency guidelines. For specific information call Veteran Services at 617-466-4250. Applications may be obtained at the Veteran Services office, City Hall, Room 100, Human Resources office, Room 301 or download from City of Chelsea Web site www.chelseama.gov.

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 a veteran or the spouse of a veteran where the veteran is deceased or has a service-connected disability.
- Must be owner occupied (or spouse of owner)
- Must be trustee of the trust on deed or said property
- Qualified veterans 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 per hour). (MGL ch. 59 Section 5N)
- All hours worked must be completed by the participant. No other person can work on the applicant's behalf to fulfill hours

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.

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.