

Reading Senior Property Tax Work-Off Abatement Program 2025

Goal

This program encourages senior and veteran taxpayers to volunteer for the Town of Reading, earning a reduction in their property tax bill. Designed to assist seniors over 60 with their annual property taxes, the initiative not only addresses financial needs but also enhances the involvement of local elders and veterans in municipal government, leveraging their valuable skills and knowledge.

Existing Program Details

Current age requirement:

- 62, 65, 70

Current Income cap:

- \$47,150 single person
- \$53,900 married

Wage:

- \$1,000 for 125 hours \$8.00 per hour

Positions Available:

- 30
- For seniors only
- No opportunities for veterans
- Only one position filled

Funding Source:

- Cited from April 2007 documents
- Total program funding: \$15,750
 - \$10,500 contribution from the Town
 - \$5,250 contributed from Burbank Trust Fund

Proposed Program Details

Age requirement:

- 60+

Income guidelines:

- \$75,300 for single individuals
- \$102,000 for married couple filing a joint return

The guidelines were selected following a peer review of surrounding communities and discussions with key town officials. Income guidelines are based on the 500% of the 2024 Federal Poverty levels.

Wage:

- \$15.00 per hour

Number of Volunteer Opportunities:

- 10 positions. Ten at 100 hours for \$1,500 deduction.

Program Timeline:

- Official Program Launch: January 2025
- Accept applications: February 1, 2025-March 1, 2025
- Notified of position: April 30, 2025
- Service completed: July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026

The taxpayer's actual tax bill should only show a credit for the amount earned net of any federal withholdings.

Senior Volunteer Tax-Worker Eligibility

- Be 60 years of age or older at time of application
 - Applicants should be able to verify a household income of no more than \$75,300 for single individual and \$102,000 for married couple filing a joint return. Income guidelines are based on the 500% of the 2024 Federal Poverty levels.
 - Own and occupy the property as his/her principal residence
 - Only one tax credit per family per calendar year is allowed
- Be current with property tax and water/sewer payments
 - Complete the application and provide necessary income verification
 - Possess and identify employable skills
 - Complete a CORI check and/or provide references if required by the worksite
 - Be interviewed for job placement by Senior Center Staff and potential supervisor

Required Documents for Senior Application

Tax Work -Off Information needed to accompany application:

- Completed Application
- Personal Identification (Copy of Driver's License, etc.)
- Copy of Property Tax Bill
- Completed CORI form
- Proof of Income (Copy of 1040 form of Income Tax, etc.)

Compensation

- \$15.00 per hour
- Participants will receive abatement for up to 100 hours of service. Any hours worked beyond the 100 hours cannot be accumulated for the program.
- Participants are entitled to no Town employee benefits.
- Maximum amount of abatement is \$1,500 per person.
- Hours of service include 100 hours of service for \$1,500.
- Payment will be made via an abatement on the tax bills the following year. A paycheck will not be issued to the program participants.
- The Town will issue a W-2 form for federal income tax purposes and a statement of credit to all participants.

Job Placement for Tax Work-Off Abatement Program

- No applicant is guaranteed a position.
- Individuals will be chosen based on the best match between the application's qualification and the skill requirement of each job.
- Applicant will be interviewed by Senior Center Staff and the department supervisor of the position for which they have been placed.
- If there are more applicants than openings a lottery system will be used to fill positions.
- There will be a two-week probationary period to assess the appropriateness of the placement.
- Program participants may not work for relatives who are Town employees.
- Participants must re-apply every year.