



Town of Greenfield, Massachusetts

Town Hall, 14 Court Square, Greenfield, Mass, 01301 Phone: 413-772-1560 Fax: 413-772-1519

Financial Assistance Summary Savings and Exemptions for Greenfield Residents

Introduction

The Town of Greenfield, the Commonwealth and other agencies offer a variety of programs to help reduce taxes, water/sewer charges and many other expenses for seniors, veterans, people with disabilities, income-qualified households and others. We encourage residents to make use of these programs and to refer family, friends and neighbors who may be eligible. **Participation is confidential.**

If you would like one or more copies of the paper version of this Financial Assistance Summary, please contact the Mayor's Office at 413-772-1560 or send an email message to mayor@townofgreenfield.org. Please be sure to include your address and phone number so we can contact you with any questions.

Program Descriptions

Tax Assistance

Property Tax Exemptions: Greenfield offers tax exemptions for seniors, veterans, the legally blind and other qualifying taxpayers to the fullest extent allowed by state law. Requirements vary for different exemptions. Contact the Assessors at (413) 772-1506 for information and assistance.

Tax Deferral Program: qualifying homeowners age 65+ may defer all or part of their property taxes until the property is sold or transferred. The Town then receives deferred taxes plus 4.5% annual interest. Contact the Assessors at 413-772-1506 for more information and assistance.

Tax Abatements: residents who believe that their real estate, motor vehicle or personal property was incorrectly assessed may contact the Assessors to request abatement through an appeal process. The appeal period varies based on the particular tax. Call the Assessors at 413-772-1506 for more information or assistance.

*****NOTE:** Applying for any of the above **does not** stay the collection of your taxes. You must pay your tax bill as it is due and on time. If you pay the full year's taxes and an exemption is granted you will receive a refund. Upon applying for an exemption, you may be required to provide the assessors with further information and supporting documentation to establish your eligibility. You will be notified in writing if an exemption is denied. If an exemption is granted it will show up on the first **actual** tax bill.

Water/Sewer Assistance

Water discount: if you pay your water bill within 10 days of receipt, you are eligible for a 10% discount on the water portion of the bill.

Leak Detection: The DPW will perform a free leak detection survey on your home or business in order to discover leaks, save water and save costs on water/sewer bills. Contact the DPW 413-772-1528 for more information or assistance.

Housing and Home Heating Assistance

Affordable Housing: rental and home ownership opportunities are available for eligible households. See the Town of Greenfield website for more information. www.townofgreenfield.org

Housing Subsidies: the Greenfield Housing Authority provides state or federal, elderly, disabled or Section 8 housing programs. Contact them at 413-774-2932 for more information or assistance.

Home Heating: many households qualify for help from the State of Massachusetts.

- Berkshire Gas Customer Care Center 1-800-292-5012
- Fuel Assistance/LIHEAP 413-774-2310 (Community Action)
 - Greenfield Residents age 55+ may apply at the Senior Center 413-772-1517
- GNEF (Good Neighbor Energy Fund) Emergency Fuel 413-773-3154
- RAFT (Residential Assistance for Families in Transition) 413-863-9781
- Citizen's Energy Co. 1-877-563-4645 (1-800-Joe 4 Oil)

Energy Saving Programs

- Energy Assessment - Mass Save Hotline: 1-866-527-7283 www.masssave.com/customers/
- Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) 1-800-632-8175
- Home Loan Modification Program - *seniors and disabled only*, 1-413-781-6045, lfoley@pvpc.org

HEAT Loan Participating Lenders

- Franklin First Federal Credit Union 413-774-6700
- Greenfield Coop Bank 413-772-0293

Veterans' Services

The Veterans' Agent provides referrals and assistance to Greenfield veterans and their dependents for a wide range of programs and services. Call Veterans Services at: 413-772-1571.

Senior Services

The Greenfield Council on Aging links seniors (age 55+) and their caregivers to a variety of programs and services. Call the Senior Center: 413-772-1517.

Food and Household

Food Pantries

- Greenfield Gardens Community Building, 58 Pray Drive, 413-774-4904
- Center for Self Reliance 3 ½ Osgood Street, 413-773-5029
- Salvation Army, 72 Chapman Street, 413-773-3154

Brown Bag

- Low income people 55+ may apply for free monthly food distribution at Senior Center.
- Call Food Bank of Western MA 1-800-247-9632; or Senior Center 413-772-1517.

Food Stamps (Project Bread)

Call 1-800-645-8333 or 413-772-3400

OR Apply for food stamps online at www.gettingfoodstamps.org

Feedback welcome!

Is this Financial Assistance Summary helpful to you? Please send your comments to:

By Mail: Office of the Mayor
Town of Greenfield
14 Court Square
Greenfield, MA 01301

By Phone: 413-772-1560

By Email: mayor@townofgreenfield.org

Thank you in advance for your suggestions.