

TOWN OF AMHERST TAX WORK-OFF PLAN

Purpose

To allow qualified Amherst taxpayers to perform volunteer community service in participating Town departments in order to receive an abatement on their property tax.

Availability

- There are 30 slots.

Eligibility Criteria

Taxpayer must:

- be sixty (60) years of age or older as of January 1
- own and occupy the property as his/her principal residence
- be current with property tax payments
- possess and identify employable skills
- complete the application and provide all necessary income verifications
- complete a CORI check
- interview with Senior Center Program Director/Services

Job Placement

- Applicants will be interviewed by the supervisor of the position for which they have applied.
- There will be a two-week probationary period to assess the appropriateness of placement.

Compensation

- \$8.00 per hour.

Means Testing

Income Guidelines:

- Single person - annual adjusted gross income of \$36,531 or less
- Couple - annual adjusted gross income of \$54,797 or less

Important Information for Participants

- Maximum amount of abatement is \$1000.00 per person per fiscal year.
- Participants receive an abatement for up to 125 hours of community service. Any hours worked beyond the 125 hours cannot be accumulated for the Tax Work-Off Plan.
- Money earned through the Tax Work-Off Plan is reportable income for federal taxes only. Participants will receive a W-2 form for the amount of money earned through the program.

2011 Information:

- All 30 slots are filled and there is a wait list of 4 elders.
- The following are the departments where Tax Work-Off participants are presently working: Jones and Munson Libraries, Leisure Services and Supplemental Education, Collectors, Senior Center and Amherst Regional Public Schools.
- The Senior Center, ARPS and DPW are waiting for slots to become available.