



## Q&A – Benefits for Newtown Seniors

The Town of Newtown deeply values its senior citizens. We understand that there may be economic considerations for Seniors that are unique and that the Town needs to provide financial supports to the extent possible in order to help our Senior residents continue to live and thrive in our community. This Q&A details some of the programs the Town of Newtown offers to Seniors.

QUESTION	ANSWER
<b>Does the Town have a tax relief program for Seniors?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Yes, in fiscal 2013-14 the Town allocated \$1.5 million for Senior Tax Relief for 718 households that qualify.</li><li>• Homeowners can qualify if they are 65 years old as of July 1<sup>st</sup>.</li><li>• Your income must be \$65,000 or less.</li><li>• You must have resided and paid taxes in Newtown for one year and all delinquent taxes must be paid in full.</li><li>• Your property must be a legal domicile &amp; occupied by you more than 183 days each year.</li><li>• The credit is applied to the residence and house lot, not excess acreage.</li></ul>
<b>When are applications available for the Senior Tax Relief Program?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Applications are available March 1<sup>st</sup> through May 15<sup>th</sup> of any given year and can be obtained at the Newtown Municipal Center – 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT.</li><li>• You can apply at the Tax Office and need to fill out the application (signed) and provide copies of your signed Federal Income Tax return &amp; a copy of your 1099 statement from social security.</li></ul>
<b>What does the town take into consideration when I apply for this benefit?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All sources of income are taken into consideration. This includes, but is not limited to: interest bearing accounts, all social security income, wages, pensions &amp; annuities, rental monies, etc.</li></ul>
<b>How much benefit will I receive?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If you made <b>under \$45,000</b>, you are <b>eligible for \$2,525</b> off your taxes.</li><li>• If you made <b>between \$45,001-\$55,000</b>, you are eligible for <b>\$1,750 off</b> your taxes.</li><li>• If you made <b>between \$55,001-\$65,000</b>, you are eligible for <b>\$1,300 off</b> your taxes.</li></ul>

**How often do I need to re-apply for the Senior Tax Relief Program?**

- You only need to apply every two years. However, if your income changes, please contact the Tax Collector's Office at 203-270-4320.

**Does the State of CT have a tax relief for Seniors?**

- Yes, the State offers a program if your income is under \$32,300 (single) & \$39,000 (married).
- Applications can be obtained February 1<sup>st</sup> through May 15<sup>th</sup> at the Newtown Municipal Center – 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT.
- Applications taken in 2013 are applied to July 2013 bill.

**If I want information about Town or State tax relief for Seniors who do I call?**

- Please call the Newtown Tax Assessor's office at 203-270-4240.

**Why doesn't the Town just freeze tax payments for Seniors?**

- If the Town froze taxes and did not apply increases, then by law, the Town would have to put a lien on that property and then recapture the frozen amount when the property was sold. This is a burdensome process for both the Town and the Senior taxpayer.

**Are there any programs for Seniors who are Renters?**

- Yes, a Renters Rebate Program is a program for Senior Renters who have lived in Newtown for any part of 2012 and is 65 years of age by December 31, 2012. People renting an apartment or room, or living in cooperative housing or a mobile home may be eligible for this program. Renters' rebates can be up to \$900 for married couples and \$700 for single persons and the rebate amount is based on a graduated income scale. The filing period for this program is now April 1<sup>st</sup> – October 1<sup>st</sup>. For more information, please contact the Social Services Department at 203-270-4330.

**Does the Town provide transportation services for Seniors?**

- Yes, there is daily, door-to-door minibuss service for Senior residents (SweetHART bus service). You must be 60 years or older and proof of age is required. Call 203-748-2511 at least 2 days in advance. Service is provided Monday to Friday and half day Saturday.

**Does the Town provide transportation for medical appointments?**

- Yes, FISH provides transportation for Newtown residents, regardless of age, who need transportation to medical appointments. Volunteers are available Monday through Thursday and transportation goes to Danbury, Bethel, Brookfield & Southbury. Call 1-800-794-0034.

**What other programs for Seniors does the Town of Newtown offer?**

- The Senior Center offers a wide variety of programs and activities including: **fitness, nutrition & health, Meals on Wheels, educational programs, flu shot clinics, health screenings and income tax assistance.** For more information call: 203-270-4310.
- Seniors are entitled to **free swim passes** through the Newtown Parks & Recreation Department for Treadwell Pool and Eichler's Cove Beach and **free residential permits for all Newtown parks.** For more information, call: 203-270-4340.
- Seniors can also purchase permits for the **Transfer Station for \$80 (a \$10 savings).** Registering online can also save an additional \$5. For more information, call 203-270-4307.

**What other programs are offered to Seniors?**

- For more information about any of the following programs, please call the Newtown Social Services Department at 203-270-4330. Please note that these programs have income requirements.
  - **Medicare Savings Program** to help pay for your Medicare premiums, coinsurance, and deductibles.
  - **Energy/Fuel Assistance**
  - **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**