Summary of Property Tax Relief Programs for FY17

PROGRAM NAME	SURVIVING SPOUSE, MINOR CHILD, ELDERLY PERSON M.G.L. Ch 59 § 5 Cl 17D	ELDERLY EXEMPTION M.G.L. Ch 59 § 5 Cl 41C	SENIOR DEFERRAL M.G.L. Ch 59 § 5 Cl 41A	SENIOR REAL ESTATE PROPERTY TAX CREDIT PROGRAM M.G.L. Ch 59 § 5k	FINANCIAL HARDSHIP M.G.L. Ch 59 §5 Cl 18	SENIOR "CIRCUIT BREAKER" TAX CREDIT TIR 01-19	BLIND EXEMPTION M.G.L. Ch 59 § 5 Cl 37A	VETERANS EXEMPTION M.G.L. Ch 59 § 5 Various Clauses
Assistance Type	Reduces local property tax liability of surviving spouse, minor child of deceased parent or elderly person	Reduces local property tax liability of senior	Defers payment of local property tax owed by senior until house sold or settlement of estate	Reduces local property tax liability of senior in exchange for volunteer service to municipality	Reduces or eliminates property tax liability due to extraordinary circumstances	Reduces state income taxes owed (or provides refund if none owned) for senior whose property taxes (and 50% of water/sewer charges) exceeds 10% of income	Reduces local property tax liability	Reduces local property tax liability for veterans with a war related disability and/or certain medals. Also for the widows of eligible veterans.
Eligible Age	Varies according to status	65	65	60	N/A	65	N/A	N/A
Income Limit	N/A	Single $28,012.96 Maximum Married $42,019.45 Maximum	$30,000 maximum	N/A	N/A	Varies	N/A	N/A
Asset Limit	$54,089.52	$56,025.93 if single *$77,035.65 if married, excluding value of home	N/A	N/A	N/A	Varies	N/A	N/A
Assistance Amount	$236.65 exemption	$705.75 exemption	Any amount up to total tax bill	$750 based on State minimum wage	N/A	Varies	$500 exemption	$400 up to entire tax amount
Annual Adjustments	***Asset limit and assistance amount adjusted annually by COLA**	Annual increase in "minimum social security/retirement" exclusion from income limit by DOR. ***Income and Asset limit adjusted annually by COLA**	Interest rate is calculated annually. (FY2017 is 5%)	N/A	N/A	Automatic annual increase in income limits, assessed valuation and credit amount by statue	N/A	N/A
Application Procedure	File annual application with local assessors	File annual application with local assessors	File annual application with local assessors	File application with Council on Aging, 508-634-2208	File annual application with local assessors	File with state income taxes – Taxpayer Service 1-800-392-6089	File annual application with local assessors	File annual application with local assessors

All clauses are fully explained in Massachusetts General Laws. The Assessors' Office has brochures on the various programs and exemptions offered.

Note: Social Security deduction from total gross receipts:

Worker	$4,523
Spouse	$2,262
Total	$6,785