

## **TAXPAYER INFORMATION CONCERNING THE TOWN OF HATFIELD ELDERLY AND DISABLED TAXATION FUND**

You may be eligible to receive assistance in paying a portion of the real estate taxes assessed on your residence if you meet the criteria and if adequate funding is available. Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 60 Section 3D authorizes voluntary contributions by citizens to a Tax Relief Fund. The purpose of the fund is to provide tax relief for elderly and disabled low-income citizens. The Town of Hatfield Elderly and Disabled Taxation Fund Taxation Committee ("The Committee") is responsible for overseeing the Fund and its distribution.

The Committee, with the approval of the Select Board, has adopted the following criteria and procedures in connection with the Fund.

### **APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

Applications may be obtained at the Town Hall Offices of the Board of Assessors. **Applications must be filed between July 1 and November 15** of each year and returned to the Assessor's Office at the Town Hall. The applications are for the fiscal year in which the application is filed. The fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30. Applications must be completed in full in order for the Committee to properly review them. **Please direct any questions to (413) 247-0322.**

### **PROCEDURE FOR REVIEW**

Once the application deadline has passed, the Town of Hatfield Elderly and Disabled Taxation Fund Committee will review the applications and make decisions as to the disposition of funds. Applicants may request a hearing with the Committee at any time.

In the review of an application, the Committee shall consider income, age, disability status and an applicant's eligibility for other tax exemptions. Priority will be given to applicants with annual household incomes of less than \$25,000; applicants with an ailment or injury which results in a diminished capacity to earn an adequate income to meet their real estate tax obligation; and applicants who are 60 years of age or older. Applicants will also be asked to disclose household assets and expenses that shall be considered in the review process. The ability of the Committee to approve applications and grant relief is subject to the availability of funds.

### **NOTIFICATION OF THE APPLICANT**

The Committee shall complete its review of all applications prior to the issuance of the fourth quarter tax bill of the fiscal year. The Committee shall notify applicants, in writing, as to the disposition of the application. Awards will be applied by the Collector to the recipient's tax obligation.

**Applicants are advised that the filing of an application in no way impacts the applicant's obligation to pay their taxes. To preserve the applicant's right to appeal with the Appellate Tax Board, every applicant must make all payments of the tax bill as required by law. All information provided shall remain confidential and will not be used by the Town for any purpose other than to determine eligibility for the Elderly and Disabled Fund.**