

Financial Assistance Summary

Savings and Exemptions for Easton Residents

The Town of Easton, the Commonwealth and other agencies offer a variety of programs to help reduce taxes, 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.

To help you make informed decisions about these programs and many other opportunities, the Citizen/Business Advocate is available to answer questions and provide information. Call 508-230-0501 to get started. This summary is posted on the Town website under "Quick Links" at www.easton.ma.us.

**Council On Aging & the
Recreation Department are
located at Frothingham Hall,
15 Barrows St., N. Easton**

Please email comments/questions to Kit Minsky (kminsky@easton.ma.us) Citizen/Business Advocate, Board of Selectmen's Office, 136 Elm St., Easton MA 02356 or call 508 230-0501.

August, 2010

Program Descriptions

Tax Assistance

▪ **Property Tax Circuit Breaker:** for qualifying seniors, the Property Tax Circuit Breaker may reduce your state income taxes by up to \$930, or give you a rebate. Call the Council On Aging at (508) 238-3160.

▪ **Property Tax Exemptions:** Easton offers tax exemptions for seniors, veterans, legally blind and other qualifying taxpayers to the fullest extent allowed by state law. Requirements vary for different exemptions. Contact the Assessors at (508) 230-0520 for information.

▪ **Tax work-off program:** qualifying homeowners age 60+ may earn a property tax discount of \$750 for working in a Town office, doing rewarding work that helps the community. The rate is \$7.50/hour. Call the Council on Aging at (508) 238-3160.

▪ **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 8% annual interest. Contact the Assessors at (508) 230-0520.

▪ **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 (508) 230-0520.

School Fee Assistance

▪ **School Fee Exemptions:** fees for school-related services such as lunch, sports, arts participation may be waived or reduced. To learn more, call School Administration at 508-230-3200 x213.

Child Care Assistance

▪ **Old Colony YMCA Easton Branch: Before and after School Programs.** Ask for a Financial Assistance form. The YMCA also offers a reduced fee structure for membership (determined by household income). Call (508) 238-9758.

Employment

▪ **Ames Free Library** (53 Main St.) Free computer & scanner use; printed copies (.15/.25). Free computer tutoring by appointment in general skills or specific to those seeking employment. Website links to online newspapers www.amesfreelibrary.org (508) 238-2000.

▪ **CareerWorks:** 34 School St. Brockton Area (DUA) Division Unemployment Assistance Walk-In Center (508) 513-3400 Teleclaim Center: 1-877-626-6800

▪ **Work Permits:** 14 thru 17 yr olds. The application is downloaded at the Easton [School Superintendent's website](#). The permit is obtained through School Administration (508) 230-3200 (Select 2 on menu option).

Housing and Home Heating Assistance

▪ **Affordable Housing Resources:** Call Easton's Planning & Community Development Dept. (508) 230-0630 & see resource listings on town website:

<http://www.easton.ma.us/Directory/FinancialAssistance/HousingLinks.htm>. For general info, see Easton's Fair & Affordable Housing Partnership website: www.easton.ma.us/Directory/housing_partnership/HousingPartnership.htm

▪ **First-Time Homebuyers:** Easton's Planning & Community Development Dept. is available to help first-time homebuyers find information about organizations & programs offering financial assistance. Call (508) 230-0630.

▪ **Home & Septic System Improvements:** You may be eligible for a no monthly payment, no interest loan to repair or improve your house or [septic system](#). Grants are available to modify your home to accommodate a disability. Contact MassHousing at (617) 854-1000.

▪ **Housing subsidies:** [Easton Housing Authority](#): Senior, disabled or Section 8 housing programs. Call the EHA at (508) 238-4747 or email eastonHA@aol.com.

▪ **Home Heating:** many households qualify for help with home heating costs. Call [Self Help Inc.](#) (508) 226-4192 or **Citizens Energy Heat Assistance** at 877-JOE-4-OIL (877-563-4645). **Good Neighbor Energy Fund:** the Salvation Army provides fuel assistance. Call Council on Aging at (508) 238-3160.

Veterans Services

▪ **Veterans Services:** The Veterans Agent provides referrals and assistance to Easton veterans and their dependents for a wide range of programs and services. Call Veterans Services at (508) 230-0550 or [visit this web page](#) for more info.

Food, Clothing, Children and Household

▪ **Self Help, Inc:** services Easton residents providing programs and services. Information on Head Start. (508) 226-2030.

▪ **Easton Food Pantry:** provides food for Easton residents. Food and donations may be dropped off at Town Hall, 136 Elm St. in the front lobby. Call (508) 230-0670 for hours (www.eastonfoodpantry.org)

▪ **BAMSI:** offers information and support that connects individuals and families to available community resources (Family support & stabilization services, Mental Health Services, etc) Call (508) 580-8700.

▪ **OCES Elder Nutrition Program:** provides a nutritional noontime meal at the Parker Terr. Comm. Ctr. or home delivered for housebound seniors. \$2.50 requested donation. Call the Council on Aging at (508) 238-3160.

▪ **SNAP: (Federal Food Stamp program)** Contact the state Dept of Transitional Assistance. (508) 895-7000. **WIC:** a nutrition program that provides healthy food & other services (508) 588-8241.

▪ **United Way Greater Plymouth County** Referrals & Advocacy: (508) 583-6306

▪ **Salvation Army Vouchers:** for food, clothing and household goods. Call Council On Aging (508) 238-3160.

▪ **Easton Recreation:** offers financial assistance to residents. Call (508) 230-0650. **Camp Wonderland Vouchers:** The Salvation Army provides vouchers for summer programs for youth and seniors. Council On Aging (508) 238-3164.

▪ **H.U.G.S. II:** is a non-profit Easton based organization & provides assistance to domestic violence victims and their families. Call (508) 230-3309 confidential line or visit www.eastonhugs.org

▪ **My Brother's Keeper:** delivers furniture and food to people in need. Call the Help Line (508) 238-4416.

▪ **St. Vincent DePaul:** provides help with food, fuel, utility payments. Call (508) 238-2235 (S. Easton) or 238-3232 (N. Easton).

Health Services

▪ **Prescription Advantage:** a state program to reduce prescription drug costs for Medicare enrollees. Call the Council on Aging at (508) 238-3160 or 800 AGE INFO (800 243-4636).

▪ **Mental Health/Counseling Services:** Contact **BAMSI** for information on services: (508) 580-8700.

▪ **Mass MedLine:** eliminate or reduce prescription drug costs through this state program. Call (866) 633-1617.

▪ **SHINE:** Serving the Health Needs of Elders provides insurance advice for elders and Medicare recipients. Contact the Council On Aging at (508) 238-3160.

Assistance Programs Available to Easton Residents

An individual, family or household may qualify for multiple programs

Property Tax Assistance

- Property Tax Circuit Breaker
- Veteran's, elderly and disabled tax exemptions
- Tax work-off program
- Tax deferral program
- Tax abatements

School Fee Assistance

- School fee assistance

Child Care Assistance

- YMCA

Employment

- Ames Free Library/job seekers
- CareerWorks
- Teen Work Permits

Housing and Home Heating

- Affordable Housing Resources
- First-Time homebuyer subsidies
- Home Repair Loans & Grants, Disabled accommodations
- Housing subsidies
- Home heating assistance

Veterans Services

- Services and referrals

Food, Clothing, Children & Household

- Self Help Inc.
- Easton Food Pantry
- BAMSI
- OCES Elder Nutrition Program
- Food Stamps (SNAP)/WIC
- United Way Greater Plymouth County
- Salvation Army Vouchers
- Recreational Program assistance
- H.U.G.S. II
- My Brother's Keeper
- St. Vincent DePaul

Health Services

- Prescription Advantage
- BAMSI -Mental Health/Counseling
- Mass MedLine
- SHINE



Town of Easton
Office of the Board of Selectmen
136 Elm Street
Easton, MA 02356

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