

CITIZEN DISCOUNTS AND EXEMPTIONS

A Guide to Local and State Government Assistance Programs



LOCAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The Town of Franklin offers a variety of assistance programs to qualifying residents. Eligible residents may receive discounted rates for certain Town services through our departments. Requirements and applications are available on our website. You can find information about the following:

Dept of Public Works

Eligible residents can receive a 50% credit, per quarter, on their water, sewer, and trash bills and a waiver for the sticker fee at the Beaver Street Recycling Center. Contact the DPW at 508-553-5500 with any questions .

[Find Forms here](#)

Recreation Department

Eligible residents can receive up to a 100% discount on registration or program fees. Discounts are calculated using a sliding scale. Contact the Recreation Department at 508-613-1666 with any questions.

[Find Forms here](#)

Assessor's Office

Senior, Blind and/or Veteran Property Owners may qualify for local property tax deferrals and/or Exemptions (July 1st - April 1st). Qualifications are determined through Mass. General Law. Contact the Assessor's Office with any questions at 508-520-4920

[Find Forms here](#)

Fire Department

Senior Safe Inspections look for potential dangers in Senior residences, including hazrads, smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector checks and battery replacement.

Contact Safety Officer Doug Perro at 508-326-0194 or dperro@franklinma.gov

Housing

Eligible residents can apply for state-aided public housing and the Alternative Housing Voucher Program. Contact the local Housing Authority at 508-528-2220 or contact Maxine Kinhart at 508-553-4846

[Find Forms here](#)

Franklin Seniors Comcast Discount

Eligible Senior residents can receive \$2.00 off Comcast's monthly "Extra" Service Level or that Digital Level of Service. Age and income requirements must be met.

[Find Form here](#)



Are you a Senior or Veteran? Contact the Franklin Senior Center and/or the Veterans Services Office for assistance.

Senior Center: 508-520-4945

Veterans Services: 508-613-1315

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STATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The State of Massachusetts offers a variety of assistance programs to qualifying residents. You can find information about the following:

S.N.A.P. Benefits

Do you need help buying fresh, nutritious food? You may be eligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), also known as food stamps.

[Visit their website for information](#)

Dept of Veterans Services

Veterans and their dependents may be eligible for a variety of Chapter 115 Safety Net benefits and assistance programs.

[Visit their website for information](#)

Fuel Assistance

Apply for discounted fuel service to help lower heating bills. Residents of all ages can also apply by appointment at the Franklin Senior Center.

[Visit their website for information](#)

Mass Health

Residents of all ages, including children can apply to access doctor appointments, prescriptions, hospital stays and other health assistance

[Visit their website for information](#)

Lifeline Program

Low-income households of all ages can apply for free or low-cost phone or internet service through the Lifeline Program.

[Visit their website for information](#)



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SENIOR CIRCUIT BREAKER

The Senior Circuit Breaker is a local tax credit available to qualifying residents age 65+. Find details below including eligibility, application details, and resources.

What is the Senior Circuit Breaker?

The Senior Circuit Breaker is a tax credit that is triggered when property tax payments exceed 10% of a senior citizen's annual income. Those who qualify are still required to pay their local property taxes and will receive a dollar credit on their tax return for every dollar that their property tax, water, and sewer bills exceeded 10% of their income.

Seniors who rent their homes can also qualify for this dollar-for-dollar tax credit if 25% of their annual rent exceeds 10% of their annual income.

Who is eligible for the circuit breaker?

- Must be a MA resident, age 65+ by the end of the tax year for which you are filing.
- Must own or rent property in MA as your primary residence.
- For 2020, must have an annual income of \$61,000 or less (single filer), \$76,000 or less (Head of Household filer) or \$92,000 or less (joint filers)

Who is NOT eligible for the circuit breaker?

- Married persons who do not file jointly for this credit
- Anyone listed as a dependent for another tax filer
- Residents who receive federal or state rent subsidy directly
- Residents who live in property tax-exempt facilities

How do I apply?

- To apply, you **must file a 2020 MA state income tax return by May 17, 2021.**
- You may be eligible for a refundable credit for 2017, 2018, and 2019, even if you did not file state forms.
- The 2020 credit is capped at \$1,150.



Contact the Franklin Senior Center for assistance at
508-520-4945

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TAX CREDIT ESTIMATOR WORKSHEET

You can calculate a rough estimate of your potential tax credit using this Worksheet Tool. This is NOT an official tax document, just an estimator tool to assist during the tax filing season.

For Homeowners:

Your property tax (a) \$ _____

Plus +

50% of water bill (b) \$ _____

Equals = (c) \$ _____

Total annual income (d) \$ _____

(includes all income exempt from state income tax,
i.e. Social Security, State/Municipal Pensions)

Times X .10

Equals = (e) \$ _____

To Calculate possible credit (f)

Line (c) \$ _____

Minus - Line (e) \$ _____

Equals (f) = \$ _____

For Renters:

Your annual rent (a) \$ _____

Times x .25

Equals = (b) \$ _____

Total annual income (c) \$ _____

Times x .10

Equals = (d) \$ _____

To Calculate possible credit (e):

Line (b) \$ _____

Minus - Line (d) \$ _____

Equals = (e) \$ _____

For more information contact

**The Massachusetts Department of Revenue Customer
Service Bureau**

1-800-392-6089 or visit www.mass.gov/dor