TOWN OF SEEKONK
ELDERLY AND DISABLED TAXATION AID FUND COMMITTEE
100 Peck Street, Seekonk, MA 02771

Organized according to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 60, Section 3D and approved at Town Meeting November 27, 2006

Application Guidelines: Definitions and Eligibility For Fiscal Year 2013

INCOME

There are criteria that must be met to be eligible. First and foremost, an applicant must demonstrate low income as defined by an annual **combined** household income of $45,390, or less. Applicants will be required to complete a financial and income and expense statement as part of the application process.

Meeting the income criteria does not automatically guarantee an award. In addition to qualifying on the basis of income, an applicant must meet other criteria and also be either elderly and/or disabled.

ELDERLY

To qualify as elderly, the applicant must be 60 years of age or older as of July 1, 2012.

DISABLED

Every applicant applying on the basis of a disability shall provide the committee with as much information as possible supporting that disability. Each disability case will be evaluated on its own merits and on a case by case basis. Determination of disability eligibility is at the sole discretion of the committee.

RESIDENCY

Applicant must have owned and occupied the real estate in Seekonk as his or her primary domicile for at least five years prior to application deadline.

Applicant must be the titled owner of the property or hold a life estate in the property. If title is held by a trust, the applicant must be both a trustee and a 50% beneficiary of the trust in order to qualify.

ASSETS

Domicile must be assessed at or below the median assessed value for the prior tax year for residential property type owned by applicant, (e.g. single family median assessment for property that is a single family residence, multi family median assessment for property that is a multi family residence, etc.).

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ASSETS continued

The value of personal property and other real estate, excluding domicile, including second homes or other real estate, cars, boats, jewelry, fur coats, antiques , paintings, securities such as stocks, bonds, mutual funds, brokerage accounts, CDs, IRAs, savings and checking accounts, pension and annuity funds, and any other tangible liquid assets will be considered in determining eligibility and aid amount.

OTHER

Extraordinary circumstances (e.g. an unusual expense burden) will be considered in the Committee's deliberations and the decision process. This will provide the Committee with flexibility to address unforeseen situations.

Preference will be given to applicants who demonstrate the greatest need and who do not qualify for any other existing exemption or deferral program administered by Seekonk's assessing department.

The award shall not exceed the taxpayer’s real estate tax liability as of 12/1/2012. This is to avoid a credit payment to the taxpayer.

SCHEDULE

Fiscal Year 2013 - July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Applications will be available on July 1, 2012.

Applications are due October 1, 2012.

Final awards decision will be made by December 31, 2012.

Awards will be applied towards the tax bill by the third quarter, 2/1/2013, or fourth quarter, 5/1/2013, of Fiscal Year 2013.