

CITY OF YOUNGSTOWN
MAYOR JOHN A. McNALLY



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY HALL • 26 S. PHELPS STREET • YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO 44503
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PRESS RELEASE

City of Youngstown Sanitation Homestead Exemption for 2017

RELEASE DATE: DECEMBER 8, 2016

The City of Youngstown is now processing Homestead Exemption Applications for 2017. Those entitled to the Homestead Exemption will receive a twenty percent (20%) discount on their monthly sanitation fee.

To qualify for a Homestead Exemption the applicant must:

- 1) Be at least 65 years old during the year in which he/she is filing, or be permanently and totally disabled;
- 2) Have total income not to exceed \$30,500.00 (inclusive of spouse's income);
- 3) Own or lease your home as of January 1 of the filing year; and
- 4) Live within the city, in the home for which the exemption applies.

Applicants must complete a Sanitation Homestead Exemption Application Form, attach all required documents, and submit the application and supporting documentation to: City of Youngstown Homestead Exemption, 26 S. Phelps Street, 5th Floor, Youngstown, OH 44503.

Application Forms must be submitted by January 1, 2017. Forms received after January 1, 2017 will be processed, but the discount will not be applied until the next billing cycle.

The Sanitation Homestead Exemption must be renewed on an annual basis. Therefore, even if a resident currently receives the exemption, a new application form for the 2017 calendar year is required. Failure to submit a new form will result in the loss of the exemption discount.

Application Forms will be mailed to all individuals currently receiving the exemption. Application Forms and Instructions are also available on the City's webpage, in the Mayor's Office, in the Water Department, and in the Property Code Enforcement Department.

For further information contact: Nicole Alexander, Senior Assistant Law Director
Phone: (330) 742-8874
Email: nalexander@youngstownohio.gov

2017 City of Youngstown Sanitation Homestead Exemption Application Form

This is to confirm that I am a resident of the City of Youngstown, Ohio who owns or leases the property at the address below. I would like to apply for the twenty percent (20%) discount on my City sanitation fee.

Original Application

Renewal

Water Account #: _____

Applicant's Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Name of Spouse _____ Date of Birth _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Signature _____ Date _____

The signature of the applicant on the Homestead Exemption application authorizes the City of Youngstown to review all financial records relating to applicant's income.

TO QUALIFY, YOU MUST ATTACH PROOF OF THE FOLLOWING:

- (1) Ownership or a Leasehold Interest;
- (2) Income for Applicant and Spouse (if applicable); and
- (3) Age OR Disability

The attached form provides examples of documents that will satisfy these requirements.

- If you are approved, the reduced rate will be reflected on your next water bill.
- If you are not approved, you will receive notice of disapproval.
- If you have not submitted all required documentation, you will receive a notice that shows in what way(s) your application was deficient. If you receive a notice of deficiency, your application will be set aside until you provide the missing documentation.

Mail completed form to:

City of Youngstown Homestead Exemption
26 South Phelps, 5th Floor, Youngstown, Ohio, 44503

City of Youngstown Sanitation

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for Homestead Exemption, the applicant must:

- 1) Be at least 65 years old during the the year in which he/she is filing, or be permanently and totally disabled;
- 2) Have total income not to exceed 30,500.00 (inclusive of spouse's income);
- 3) Own or lease his/her home as principal place of residence, effective January 1st of the filing year; and
- 4) Live within the city, in the home for which the exemption applies.

The following documents are acceptable to prove Ownership/Leasehold Interest, Income, Age or Disability

Ownership or Leasehold Interest: Statement from the Auditor's website OR a lease agreement

Income: First page of Federal Income Tax Return, Personal Earnings Statement OR Social Security Statement showing yearly award

Age: Copy of driver's license, State identification card OR Copy of birth certificate or other certified document

Disability: Award letter OR Yearly statement from the Social Security Administration

Can the surviving spouse of a deceased person, who qualified for homestead exemption, also qualify?

To qualify for Homestead Exemption, the surviving spouse must:

- 1) be the surviving spouse of a deceased person who was permanently disabled or at least 65 years of age, and who applied and qualified for the exemption in the year of his/her death;
- 2) be at least 59 years old on the date of the decedent's death; and
- 3) meet all other homestead exemption requirements.

What are the specific requirements?

- 1) Must file a Homestead Exemption annually; and
- 2) Must occupy the home as of January 1st of the filing year.

What qualifies as permanently and totally disabled?

1) Section 4503.064 of the Ohio Revised Code states that, "permanently and totally disabled" means a person who has some impairment in body or mind, rendering the person unfit to work at any substantial remunerative employment, which he/she is reasonably able to perform and, which will, within reasonable probability, continue for an indefinite period of at least 12 months without any present indication of recovery therefrom or has been certified as permanently and totally disabled by a state or federal agency having the function of so classifying persons. A Certificate of Disability form must be completed by the applicant, signed by a licensed physician, and submitted with the application for the Homestead Exemption.

What are the total income guidelines?

1) total income includes the income of the owner(s) of the home, and includes the income of a spouse of the owner, even though the spouse may not be an actual owner. The basis of total income is Adjusted Gross Income under the Internal Revenue Code and includes compensation, rents, interest, and most other types of income.

Items that must be included in applicant's income:

- 1) Old Age and Survivors Benefits
- 2) Social Security Benefits
- 3) Other retirement benefits, pensions and annuities
- 4) All interest and/or dividend income from whatever source
- 5) Spouse's income

Items that are exempt from inclusion in the applicant's income:

- 1) Disability payments issued by the Veterans Administration or any branch of the Armed Services
- 2) Worker's Compensation payments

What is the penalty for knowingly providing false information?

An applicant who knowingly provides false information in order to receive the homestead exemption discount may be subject to criminal charges. If convicted, the applicant will be ineligible for the homestead exemption for a period of three years.

Please direct all questions to the Property Code Enforcement Department at 330-742-8888