

Appropriations Workgroup Session  
(Follow up questions from March 8, 2023 Meeting)

1. Additional Veterans Program

- a. Is the additional exemption applicable only to real property, or does it extend to motor vehicles?

**OPM's Response**

The exemption is permitted on real estate, personal property and/or motor vehicle.

- b. How many Veterans per town?

**OPM's Response**

See below for a town-by-town breakdown of the number of people that received the additional Veterans' exemption in FY23:

<b>Town/Borough</b>	<b>Grand List 2021 FY 23</b>
Andover	8
Ansonia	41
Ashford	11
Avon	49
Barkhamsted	17
Beacon Falls	17
Berlin	76
Bethany	17
Bethel	76
Bethlehem	16
Bloomfield	33
Bolton	8
Bozrah	9
Branford	111
Bridgeport	151
Bridgewater	12
Bristol	243
Brookfield	54
Brooklyn	39
Burlington	17

Canaan	7
Canterbury	22
Canton	24
Chaplin	6
Cheshire	94
Chester	13
Clinton	71
Colchester	35
Colebrook	6
Columbia	22
Cornwall	4
Coventry	36
Cromwell	21
Danbury	182
Darien	23
Deep River	15
Derby	34
Durham	19
Eastford	13
East Granby	11
East Haddam	25
East Hampton	36
East Hartford	190
East Haven	128
East Lyme	47
Easton	13
East Windsor	58
Ellington	34
Enfield	169
Essex	16
Fairfield	161
Farmington	51
Franklin	8
Glastonbury	61
Goshen	27
Granby	31
Greenwich	61
Griswold	19
Groton (Town)	133
Guilford	69
Haddam	18
Hamden	186
Hampton	5

Hartford	37
Hartland	8
Harwinton	6
Hebron	15
Kent	9
Killingly	146
Killingworth	21
Lebanon	8
Ledyard	52
Lisbon	22
Litchfield	30
Lyme	5
Madison	35
Manchester	127
Mansfield	24
Marlborough	9
Meriden	180
Middlebury	19
Middlefield	19
Middletown	72
Milford	309
Monroe	69
Montville	100
Morris	9
Naugatuck	101
New Britain	105
New Canaan	10
New Fairfield	57
New Hartford	6
New Haven	134
Newington	97
New London	28
New Milford	59
Newtown	69
Norfolk	9
North Branford	58
North Canaan	10
North Haven	149
North Stonington	22
Norwalk	
Norwich-Town	69
Norwich-City	45
Old Lyme	14

Old Saybrook	32
Orange	19
Oxford	10
Plainfield	87
Plainville	103
Plymouth	29
Pomfret	20
Portland	22
Preston	13
Prospect	33
Putnam	37
Redding	3
Ridgefield	18
Rocky Hill	44
Roxbury	4
Salem	11
Salisbury	6
Scotland	3
Seymour	71
Sharon	8
Shelton	105
Sherman	5
Simsbury	39
Somers	22
Southbury	114
Southington	288
South Windsor	61
Sprague	4
Stafford	55
Stamford	149
Sterling	8
Stonington	75
Stratford	251
Suffield	48
Thomaston	25
Thompson	52
Tolland	32
Torrington	224
Trumbull	89
Union	0
Vernon	76
Voluntown	10
Wallingford	188

Warren	11
Washington	10
Waterbury	233
Waterford	80
Watertown	101
Westbrook	49
West Hartford	113
West Haven	201
Weston	2
Westport	36
Wethersfield	77
Willington	8
Wilton	12
Winchester	11
Windham Dist#2	19
Windham Dist#1	21
Windsor	72
Windsor Locks	47
Wolcott	147
Woodbridge	8
Woodbury	26
Woodstock	21
City of Groton	
Bor. of Danielson	
Groton Long Point	
Bor. of Jewett City	
Bor. of Stonington	
TOTALS	9,380

- c. What types of income are included in the income eligibility calculation for the additional exemption?

**OPM's Response**

Based on C.G.S Section 12-81g and 12-81l. See page 21, subsection on *Income*, of [QUESTIONS AND ANSWER BOOKLET \(ct.gov\)](#)

## **INCOME:**

### **9. Q. WHAT ARE THE INCOME REQUIREMENTS? (2022 INCOME)**

A. Unmarried \$40,300.00 Married \$49,100.00 (joint income)

With 100% V.A.-determined disability rating (adjusted gross income only):

Unmarried \$18,000.00 Married \$21,000.00 (joint income)

### **10. Q. WHAT IS CONSIDERED INCOME FOR THE ADDITIONAL VETERANS EXEMPTION?**

A. Adjusted gross income as determined for purposes of the federal income tax plus any other income not included in such adjusted gross income, but does not include veterans' disability payments. Qualifying income is the individual's income if unmarried, or both spouses' incomes if the applicant is married.

Exception - if the applicant has a 100% disability rating as determined by the Department of Veteran's Affairs, adjusted gross income only is considered. Section 12-81g(a).

### **11. Q. WHAT IS NOT CONSIDERED INCOME?**

A. See Question 20 in the Homeowner section of this booklet (excluding item #8)

**Sec. 12-81g. Additional exemption from property tax for veterans. State reimbursement for related tax loss. Regulations.** (a) **Additional exemption commencing 1985 assessment year with maximum income requirements.** Effective for the assessment year commencing October 1, 1985, and each assessment year thereafter, any person entitled to an exemption from property tax in accordance with subdivision (19), (20), (21), (22), (23), (24), (25) or (26) of section 12-81, reflecting any increase made pursuant to the provisions of section 12-62g, shall be entitled to an additional exemption from such tax in an amount equal to twice the amount of the exemption provided for such person pursuant to any such subdivision, provided such person's qualifying income does not exceed the applicable maximum amount as provided under section 12-81l, except that if such person has a disability rating of one hundred per cent as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the total of such adjusted gross income, individually, if unmarried, or jointly, if married, in the calendar year ending immediately preceding the assessment date with respect to which such additional exemption is allowed, is not more than twenty-one thousand dollars if such person is married or not more than eighteen thousand dollars if such person is not married.

**Sec. 12-81l. Uniform income requirements for exemptions from property tax under sections 12-81f, 12-81g, 12-81i and 12-81j.** Whenever used in sections 12-81f, 12-81g, 12-81i, 12-81j and 12-81jj, "qualifying income" means, with respect to any person making application for exemption from property tax as provided under any of said sections, such person's total

adjusted gross income as determined for purposes of the federal income tax plus any other income not included in such adjusted gross income, individually if unmarried, or jointly with spouse if married, during the calendar year ending immediately preceding the filing of a claim for any such exemption, but does not include veterans' disability payments. For purposes of determining eligibility for any of such exemptions, such qualifying income may not exceed fourteen thousand dollars, if unmarried, or sixteen thousand dollars, jointly with spouse, if married, provided in no event shall such maximum amounts of qualifying income with respect to any such person be less than the maximum amount of such qualifying income in the case of a married or unmarried person, whichever is applicable, under subsection (b) of section 12-170aa, and in the event that such maximum qualifying income under this section is less than the comparable amount under said subsection (b) of section 12-170aa for any assessment year, such amount under this section shall be made equivalent to that under said subsection (b) of section 12-170aa for purposes of determining eligibility under this section for such assessment year.

## 2. LIHEAP

- a. Legislature appropriated \$30 and want it spent. Are we planning to put additional dollars out?
- b. Is administration going to allow more dollars to go out?
- c. Can additional benefits be approved?

### **OPM's Response**

The legislature allocated \$30 million under PA 22-1, November Special Session, for a Home Heating Energy Assistance Supplemental Reserve. The legislation states that those funds “shall be expended only after all federal funds received by the state for home heating and utility assistance purposes have been exhausted.” Subsequent to this action, Congress provided significant additional assistance to states for home energy assistance. Due to the infusion of federal funding—combined with the stabilization of energy prices and a mild winter—Connecticut still has unspent federal funding to support heating assistance. Applications continue to come in, however, so it is difficult to fully assess the extent to which there will be excess funding.

We currently expect to be able to fully fund the benefits in the approved LIHEAP plan, plus an additional round of crisis assistance for deliverable fuel heated households (as [announced](#) shortly after the special session) and extend the program deadline for deliverable fuel heated households to the end of March, all within our federal allocation.

While we have not announced any new rounds of assistance, the state continues to monitor the program and can, as in the past, provide a supplemental utility payment to utility-heated households after the availability of program funds is determined at the end of the program year to help those households catch up on their bills.

However, any decisions regarding the current year's program should be measured against potential changes in next year's program. We will have provided benefits this year beyond what historically has been provided, notwithstanding last year's extraordinary expenditures due to the exigencies of the pandemic. While federal funds have been available to backstop this year's efforts, such funds are not expected to be available in the future. With divided control of Congress and stronger resistance to federal spending, it is likely our federal block grant allocation will return to baseline next year.

Extension Coverage Period to March 31: [Governor Lamont Extends Coverage Period for Deliverable Fuel Assistance Under the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program To March 31](#)

3. Is there a mandate for vaccination of state employees as a condition of employment?

**OPM's Response**

State employees are encouraged to keep up to date with their COVID-19 vaccine doses but are not required to be vaccinated.

4. List deficiencies of the agency in the most recent State Auditors' audit and the steps the agency has taken to remedy the deficiencies.

**OPM's Response:**

OPM had 3 deficiencies in the most recent Audit report (FY2019/2020). Below are the findings and the agency's corrective actions implemented.

- i. Property Control Deficiencies – lack of complete and accurate property control records for Rentschler Field. In addition, the Auditors of Public Accounts (APA) cited lack of properly securing sensitive and confidential records.

Step(s) taken to remedy Property Control Deficiencies – OPM is working with the Capitol Region Development Authority (CRDA) to ensure proper tagging and recording of Rentschler Field inventory in the Core-CT Financial System. A semi-annual (in March/April and July/September) inventory check process has been implemented to ensure Rentschler Filed assets are located, tagged and recorded at all times. In June 2022, OPM Business Office staff went to Rentschler Field to review, identify and retire assets that needed to be retired and updated all assets in Core-CT. Additionally, in July of 2022, staff at Rentschler Field were trained to report to the Assistant General Manager who is responsible for the reporting and tracking of Rentschler Field inventory, anytime they notice inventory tags have fallen off assets to ensure the tags are either assigned to the proper assets or replaced and updated in Core-CT.

As for sensitive and confidential records storage, Rentschler Field staff maintained that storage rooms with confidential information are always locked unless staff go in to retrieve documents.

- ii. CO-59 Reporting Error – Rentschler Field staff are not adequately reporting Rentschler Field assets to OPM due to lack of information, documentation and communication between CRDA and OPM. As a result, the OPM CO-59 inventory report submitted to the State Comptroller, erroneously had asset additions and deletions.

Step(s) taken to remedy CO-59 Reporting Error – OPM and CRDA conduct a quarterly reconciliation of inventory to ensure (1) assets purchased and retired by the CRDA outside of the Core-CT financial system are properly tagged and recorded by OPM in Core-CT and (2) assets purchased through the Core-CT system are properly tagged and recorded by OPM accordingly. OPM sends Rentschler a quarterly report of their inventory and Rentschler verifies the accuracy of the report and/or provides updates if an asset is not listed.

- iii. Violation of State Contracting Portal Requirement – Section 4e-13(b) of the Connecticut General Statute required for personal service agreements and purchase of service agreements to be published on the DAS website. OPM did not comply with this state contracting portal requirement.

Step taken to remedy violation of state contracting portal requirement – OPM has since been posting all applicable contracts on the DAS website.