

# Original and Renewal Application for Utility Users Tax Exemption and Cox Cable Discount

For the period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018



Finance Department  
735 Anacapa St  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
805-564-5343

# Frequently Asked Questions

## ***What is this application for?***

The Application for Utility User's Tax Exemption and Cox Cable Discount are really two applications in one. These applications were combined for your ease and benefit to eliminate the need to fill out two separate applications.

By telling us about yourself and answering three simple questions we can determine your eligibility for one or both programs. If you are approved you will receive assistance by having the utility user's taxes removed from your utility bills and/or receive a discount on your Cox Cable bill.

## ***How much is the discount?***

If you are approved for the Utility User's Tax Exemption the City will report your exemption status to the utility companies who will then remove the applicable taxes from your bill(s). This savings can be up to 6% of each utility bill approved.

If you are approved for the Cox Cable discount the amount of the discount will be equal to 40% of the **Basic Cable service rate only**.

It is possible to receive both the tax exemption and cable discount savings at the same time.

## ***I am already on these programs. Why are you sending me another application?***

The savings afforded by these programs are only valid between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018 and **must be renewed every year**. If you are currently enrolled in one or both programs and you do not return a complete application **you will be removed from both programs and no longer receive the discount(s)**.

If your completed renewal application is not received by June 30<sup>th</sup>, and you are later approved, your benefits *will not* be back-dated.

## ***Is there an income requirement?***

Yes. **If you live alone**, the Adjusted Gross Income (often referred to as your "AGI") in the calendar year 2015 must have been no greater than **\$17,309.00**.

If you have **two or more people** in your household, all members of that household's income must be listed together, and the total AGI in the calendar year 2015 may be no greater than **\$25,948.00**.

We may verify the AGI you report by requesting proof of income, including copies of your tax returns.

## ***What is Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)?***

Your AGI is calculated pursuant to the rules and regulations of the State of California Franchise Tax Board. You can find your AGI on your California State Tax return Form 540EZ, line 16, or on line 17 of Forms 540 and 540A.

If you need help calculating your AGI please contact the California Franchise Tax Board, the IRS, or a private tax professional. The City cannot help you determine your AGI.

Reporting your AGI or exempt status is required for your application to be processed.

## ***May I receive the discount from these programs in addition to others?***

The Cox Cable Discount and Utility User's Tax Exemption programs are administered by the City of Santa Barbara and are independent of any other programs offered by the utility companies or any other government agency.

Being enrolled in other programs which assist you in paying your utilities will not exclude you from receiving the discounts afforded by these programs. Approval for the City's programs is based solely on income, age, and/or disability status.

## ***I enrolled in this program recently. Do I have to fill out this application again?***

The short answer is, "yes". The long answer is your previous application will only insure you have benefits until June 30 of this year. The application you are filling out today, if approved, will enable your benefits to continue through June 30, 2018. If you do not fill out and return this completed application to us, your benefits will expire.



**PLEASE NOTE:**

- ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME IS DETERMINED BY THE CALIFORNIA FRANCHISE TAX BOARD ON YOUR 2015 CALIFORNIA INCOME TAX RETURN. IF YOU WERE NOT REQUIRED TO FILE A CALIFORNIA TAX RETURN YOU MAY ENTER "EXEMPT" IN THE INCOME BLOCKS.
- THE UTILITY USER'S TAX EXEMPTION AND/OR CABLE DISCOUNT, IF ANY, AUTOMATICALLY TERMINATES IF THERE IS A CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR DEATH OF THE APPLICANT.
- A NEW APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED IF YOU MOVE TO A NEW ADDRESS.
- A RENEWAL APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED EVERY YEAR FOR BENEFITS TO CONTINUE. IF A RENEWAL APPLICATION IS NOT RECEIVED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY YOUR BENEFITS WILL EXPIRE.
- THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REQUIRE DOCUMENTATION OF ANY INFORMATION PROVIDED BEFORE OR AFTER THIS APPLICATION IS APPROVED.
- OTHER MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD MAY ALSO BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE INCOME INFORMATION BEFORE OR AFTER THIS APPLICATION IS APPROVED.



- ✓ DID YOU INCLUDE COPIES OF YOUR MOST RECENT UTILITY BILLS FOR WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING FOR RELIEF? IF COPIES OF YOUR BILLS ARE NOT SUBMITTED WITH THIS APPLICATION YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE ANY CREDITS FROM THESE UTILITIES.
- ✓ IF YOU ARE APPLYING FOR THE COX DISCOUNT, AND YOU INDICATED THAT YOU ARE PERMANENTLY DISABLED, AND ARE LESS THAN 65 YEARS OLD, YOU MUST INCLUDE A COPY OF YOUR DISABILITY AWARD LETTER WITH THIS APPLICATION. THE AWARD LETTER MUST INDICATE THE NAME OF RECIPIENT. IF YOU ARE NOT DISABLED YOU DO NOT NEED TO SUBMIT AN AWARD LETTER.
- ✓ DID YOU FILL OUT THIS APPLICATION COMPLETELY? IF SO, PLEASE SIGN AND DATE BELOW.

**SIGNATURE REQUIRED**

I DECLARE UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT THE INFORMATION HEREIN IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

/  
DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)

**MAILING AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

RETURN THIS APPLICATION FORM AND ANY REQUIRED DOCUMENTS BY MAIL TO:

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA  
ATTN: BILLING DEPT-COX/UUT  
PO BOX 1990  
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93102-1990

OR YOU MAY RETURN THIS APPLICATION IN PERSON AT CITY HALL IN DE LA GUERRA PLAZA:

SANTA BARBARA CITY HALL  
  
CASHIER / BILLING OFFICE  
735 ANACAPA ST  
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101

IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE FILLING OUT THIS APPLICATION OR HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING THE PROGRAM: 805-564-5343  
FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIFELINE TELEPHONE DISCOUNTS, CONTACT FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS: 1-800-794-4741  
**THIS APPLICATION IS ONLY VALID FOR RESIDENTS WHO LIVE WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF SANTA BARBARA.**

**IF YOU LIVE OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS OF SANTA BARBARA DO NOT SUBMIT THIS FORM;** INSTEAD, CONTACT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- CITY OF CARPINTERIA RESIDENTS MAY CONTACT THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE AT 805-684-5405 x 416
- CITY OF GOLETA RESIDENTS MAY CONTACT THE CITY OF GOLETA AT 805-964-6761
- UNINCORPORATED AND ALL OTHER RESIDENTS MAY CONTACT THE COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE AT 805-568-2933