



Hardship assistance available for fire MSBU

By Special to the Chronicle

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The county can assist residential property owners, who meet eligibility criteria, with the financial burden created by the imposition of the Municipal Services Benefit Unit for Fire Protection Assessment approved in 2013.

Applications will not be accepted after the close of business on Friday, April 28. Applications can be submitted to Citrus County Housing Services and a determination will be based upon the provided information. If deemed qualified for the hardship assistance, the county shall pay the Fire Protection Assessment imposed on the qualified homesteaded property.

The following qualifications must be met to be considered eligible for hardship assistance:

- * Applicant must be the owner of the residential property and be granted homestead exemption;
- * The total household income of all lawful occupants of the property shall be less than or equal to 30 percent of the current income limits established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), as adjusted for family size (income limits are listed on application);
- * The applicant shall have the present intent to maintain the residential property as their permanent residence through the remainder of the fiscal year;
- * Prior to May 1 each year, the applicant shall file with Citrus County Housing Services an application and all supporting documentation to be considered for eligibility;
- * Applications submitted without complete and proper documentation will be disqualified and denied.

Applications and supporting documentation must be submitted in person or by mail. No applications submitted by email will be considered. Supporting documentation for all occupants of the property from all sources is required and examples of documentation are included on the application. Copies of originals are encouraged and accepted. No documents will be returned. The property owner must be able to provide the Tax Parcel ID number when completing the application and signature is required.

HOW TO APPLY

* The application form is available at Citrus County Housing Services, Lecanto Government Building, Citrus County Courthouse Administration Office 2nd floor, the Property Appraiser's Office, the Tax Collector's Office and on the following website:
<http://tinyurl.com/jk7k2pq>.

* Send completed application together with supporting documentation to:

Citrus County Board of County Commissioners

Attn: Housing Services

2804 W. Marc Knighton Court, No. 12

Lecanto, FL 34461

* Questions? Call Citrus County Housing Services at 352-527-7520.