

# PLAN AHEAD PROPERTY TAX SAVINGS PROGRAM FAQS

- What is the Plan Ahead Property Tax Savings Program?
  - The Program gives taxpayers an option to make payments into a Savings Account throughout the year, making it easier to pay City of Detroit property taxes.
- Who can use The Program?
  - > Taxpayers with homes or rental units who pay their own taxes (not mortgage companies).
  - Taxpayers who have paid their current year City of Detroit property taxes.
    - If you owe taxes to the Wayne County Treasurer's Office you can still participate in the program.
- Do I have to live in my home or have a Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) to participate?
  - No, **The Program** is available to all residential property owners regardless of whether they live in the home or not.
- How do I sign up for The Program?
  - Once you make a payment into your Savings Account, you are signed up! There is no enrollment.
    - The first payment must be made on a physical kiosk.
- Are there any fees for using The Program?
  - There is no fee for using The Program. Credit and Debit Card fees will apply.
- Where and how can I make payments into my Savings Account?
  - All payments are made through the DivDat kiosk network or through the DivDat mobile app.
    - DivDat Kiosks are already located throughout the City, including the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center (2 Woodward Ave). Go to <a href="http://www.divdatkiosknetwork.com/">http://www.divdatkiosknetwork.com/</a> to find a Kiosk near you; you can pay by Check, Cash, Credit or Debit Card\*.
    - If you have a cell phone: download the DivDat Mobile App, go to the City of Detroit Property Tax Savings Program, and enter your property's address; you can pay by E-Check, Credit or Debit Card\*.
  - You will **not** be able to mail payments into your **Savings Accounts**.
  - > You will **not** be able to make payments into your **Savings Accounts** using money orders or cashiers' check.
    - \* Credit and Debit Card fees may apply
- When can I start making payments into my Savings Account?
  - You can make payments into your **Savings Account** starting February 1<sup>st</sup> through January 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.
- What is the smallest payment I need to make to participate in the program?
  - > \$1



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### What is the largest payment I can make in the program?

The amount of your estimated Summer and Winter property taxes as stated by the program.

#### Do I have to make a payment before a certain date to participate in the program?

At least one payment must be processed on or before May 31<sup>st</sup> to participate in the program.

#### How can I find out how much money is in my Savings Account?

The DivDat Kiosks and DivDat Mobile App will have all of your **Savings Account** information. Allow up to 3-5 business days for your account to reflect your payment.

## • What do I have to do to stay in The Program?

- Keep at least \$1 in your Savings Account.
- Pay enough money into your Savings Account to cover ½ of your Summer taxes by August 15<sup>th</sup> AND the second ½ of your Summer taxes by January 15<sup>th</sup> AND pay enough money into your Savings Account to cover all of your Winter taxes by January 15<sup>th</sup> OR -
- Pay enough money into your Savings Account to cover all of your Summer taxes by August 31<sup>st</sup>-AND pay enough money into your Savings Account to cover all of your Winter taxes by January 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### Do I have to make payments into my Savings Account every month?

- You can make payments into your Savings Account every month, every week or even every day, at any time.
- Displayed on the DivDat Kiosks and the DivDat Mobile App will be a suggested amount that you should pay into your Savings Account every month to assist you with budgeting. This amount will be enough to cover all of your Summer and Winter property tax obligations.

### • How does the City estimate my Property Taxes for The Program?

> The City starts with your prior year property tax balance and adds inflation.

#### Will I still receive a Property Tax bill if I am in The Program?

Yes; the bill will be informational only, not for payment of Property Taxes. If you put enough money into your Savings Account, your Property Taxes will be paid through The Program. Your tax bill will denote if you are enrolled in the program or not.

#### How will the City use money from my Savings Account to pay my property taxes?

The City will transfer money from your **Savings Account** on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of each month starting July 1<sup>st</sup> through January 15<sup>th</sup>. The City will send you an electronic notification (email or text) when these transfers are made.



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- What if I still have money in my Savings Account after all my Summer and Winter property taxes have been paid?
  - Any balance in your **Savings Account**, after full payment of your taxes, will remain in your **Savings Account** and can be used for your following year Summer and Winter taxes.
- How can I take my money out of my Savings Account?\*
  - Visit the Citizen Tax Help Center in the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center (2 Woodward Ave), Suite 136 and make a written request to take your money out of your Savings Account.
  - > Bring photo identification with you:
    - Federal or state government-issued photo ID. U.S. passport. Military identification card with photo. Tribal identification card with photo City of Detroit ID card
  - > Bring bank records or receipts showing the payments you've made into your Savings Account.
  - A refund check will only be issued to the Taxpayer(s) who made the payment into your Savings Account.

\*See programs' Terms and Conditions for additional information.

- How do I find out more about The Program?
  - Go to www.detroitmi.gov/fintreasury or -
  - > You can call or visit:

Coleman A. Young Municipal Center Citizen Tax Help Center 2 Woodward Ave - Suite 136 Call: (313) 224-3560

TTY: 711 or (800) 649-3777

Hours: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm