

WAC 458-16A-010 Nonprofit homes for the aging. (1) **Introduction.** Under RCW 84.36.041, a nonprofit home for the aging may be totally or partially exempt from property tax. This section explains the exemptions allowed and the criteria that must be met in order to receive an exemption under this statute. Throughout this section, all requirements will pertain to all types of homes for the aging including, but not limited to, adult care homes, assisted living facilities, continuing care retirement communities (CCRC), and independent housing, unless a particular type of home is separately identified.

(2) **Definitions.** For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Acquisition" means that an existing home for the aging (or home) currently in operation is acquired by a nonprofit organization and the ownership of the facility will change as a result of a purchase, gift, foreclosure, or other method.

(b) "Assistance with activities of daily living" means the home provides, brokers, or contracts for the provision of auxiliary services to residents, such as meal and housekeeping service, transportation, ambulatory service, and attendant care including, but not limited to, bathing and other acts related to personal hygiene, dressing, shopping, food preparation, monitoring of medication, and laundry services.

(c) "Combined disposable income" means the disposable income of the person submitting the income verification form, plus the disposable income of the person's spouse or domestic partner, and the disposable income of each cotenant occupying the dwelling unit for the preceding calendar year, less amounts paid by the person submitting the income verification form or the person's spouse, domestic partner or cotenant during the previous year for the treatment or care of either person received in the dwelling unit or in a nursing home.

(i) If the person submitting the income verification form was retired for two months or more of the preceding calendar year, the combined disposable income of the person will be calculated by multiplying the average monthly combined disposable income of the person during the months the person was retired by twelve.

(ii) If the income of the person submitting the income verification form is reduced for two or more months of the preceding calendar year because of the death of the person's spouse or domestic partner, the combined disposable income of the person will be calculated by multiplying the average monthly combined disposable income of the person after the death of the spouse or domestic partner by twelve.

(d) "Complete and separate dwelling units" means that the individual units of a home contain complete facilities for living, sleeping, cooking, and sanitation.

(e) "Construction" means the actual construction or building of all or a portion of a home that did not exist prior to the construction.

(f) "Continuing care retirement community" or "CCRC" means an entity that provides shelter and services under continuing care contracts with its residents or includes a health care facility or health service.

(g) "Continuing care contract" means a contract to provide a person, for the duration of that person's life or for a term in excess of one year, shelter along with nursing, medical, health-related or personal care services, that is conditioned upon the transfer of property, the payment of an entrance fee to the provider of the services, and/or the payment of periodic charges in consideration for the care

and services provided. A continuing care contract is not excluded from this definition because the contract is mutually terminable or because shelter and services are not provided at the same location.

(h) "Cotenant" means a person who resides with an eligible resident and who shares personal financial resources with the eligible resident.

(i) "Disposable income" means adjusted gross income as defined in the federal Internal Revenue Code, as amended prior to January 1, 1994, plus all of the following items to the extent they are not included in or have been deducted from adjusted gross income:

(i) Capital gains, other than gain excluded from income under section 121 of the federal Internal Revenue Code to the extent it is reinvested in a new principal residence;

(ii) Amounts deducted for loss;

(iii) Amounts deducted for depreciation;

(iv) Pension and annuity receipts;

(v) Military pay and benefits other than attendant-care and medical-aid payments;

(vi) Veterans benefits other than attendant-care and medical-aid payments;

(vii) Federal Social Security Act and railroad retirement benefits;

(viii) Dividend receipts; and

(ix) Interest received on state and municipal bonds.

(j) "Domestic partner" means a partner registered under chapter 26.60 RCW or a partner in a legal union of two persons of the same sex, other than a marriage, that was validly formed in another jurisdiction, and that is substantially equivalent to a domestic partnership under chapter 26.60 RCW.

(k) "Domestic partnership" means a partnership registered under chapter 26.60 RCW or a legal union of two persons of the same sex, other than a marriage, that was validly formed in another jurisdiction, and that is substantially equivalent to a domestic partnership under chapter 26.60 RCW.

(l) "Eligible resident" means a person who:

(i) Occupied the dwelling unit as their principal place of residence as of December 31st of the assessment year the home first became operational or in each subsequent year, occupied the dwelling unit as their principal place of residence as of January 1st of the assessment year. If an eligible resident is confined to a hospital or nursing home and the dwelling unit is temporarily unoccupied or occupied by a spouse or domestic partner, a person financially dependent on the claimant for support, or both, the dwelling will still be considered occupied by the eligible resident;

(ii) Is sixty-one years of age or older on December 31st of the year in which the claim for exemption is filed, or is, at the time of filing, retired from regular gainful employment by reason of disability. A surviving spouse or domestic partner of a person who was receiving an exemption at the time of the person's death will qualify for this exemption if the surviving spouse or domestic partner is fifty-seven years of age or older and otherwise meets the requirements of this subsection; and

(iii) Has a combined disposable income that is no more than the greater of twenty-two thousand dollars or eighty percent of the median income adjusted for family size as determined by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the county in which

the person resides and in effect as of January 1 of the year the application for exemption is submitted.

(m) "First assessment year the home becomes operational" or "the assessment year the home first became operational" means the first year the home becomes occupied by and provides services to eligible residents. Depending upon the facts, this year will be the year during which construction of the home is completed or the year during which a nonprofit organization purchases or acquires an existing home and begins to operate it as a nonprofit home for the aging.

(n) "Home for the aging" or "home" means a residential housing facility that:

(i) Provides a housing arrangement chosen voluntarily by the resident, the resident's guardian or conservator, or another responsible person;

(ii) Has only residents who are at least sixty-one years of age or who have needs for care generally compatible with persons who are at least sixty-one years of age; and

(iii) Provides varying levels of care and supervision, as agreed to at the time of admission or as determined necessary at subsequent times of reappraisal.

(o) "HUD" means the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(p) "Local median income" means the median income adjusted for family size as most recently determined by HUD for the county in which the home is located and in effect on January 1st of the year the application for exemption is submitted.

(q) "Low income" means that the combined disposable income of a resident is eighty percent or less of the median income adjusted for family size as most recently determined by HUD for the county in which the home is located and in effect as of January 1st of the year the application for exemption is submitted.

(r) "Occupied dwelling unit" means a living unit that is occupied either on January 1st of the year for which the application for exemption is made or on December 31st of the assessment year the home first becomes operational and for which application for exemption is made.

(s) "Property that is reasonably necessary" means all property that is:

(i) Operated and used by a home; and

(ii) The use of which is restricted to residents, guests, or employees of a home.

(t) "Refinancing" means the discharge of an existing debt with funds obtained through the creation of new debt. For purposes of this section, even if the application for tax exempt bond financing to refinance existing debt is treated by the financing agent as something other than refinancing, an application for a property tax exemption because of refinancing by tax exempt bonds will be treated as refinancing and the set-asides specific to refinancing will be applied. "Refinancing" shall include tax exempt bond financing in excess of the amount of existing debt that is obtained to modify, improve, restore, extend, or enlarge a facility currently being operated as a home.

(u) "Rehabilitation" means that an existing building or structure, not currently used as a home, will be modified, improved, restored, extended, or enlarged so that it can be used as a home for elderly and disabled individuals. A project will be considered a rehabilitation if the costs of rehabilitation exceed five thousand dollars. If a home has acquired tax exempt bond financing and does not meet the definition of "rehabilitation" contained in this subsection,

the home may be eligible for a total exemption under the "refinancing" definition and if it meets the "refinancing" set-aside requirements. If such a home is not eligible for a total exemption, the department will determine the home's eligibility for a partial exemption in accordance with the pertinent parts of RCW 84.36.041 and this section.

(v) "Set-aside(s)" means the percentage of dwelling units reserved for low-income residents when the construction, rehabilitation, acquisition, or refinancing of a home is financed under a financing program using tax exempt bonds.

(w) "Shared dwelling units" or "shared units" means individual dwelling units of a home that do not contain complete facilities for living, eating, cooking, and sanitation.

(x) "Taxable value" means the value of the home upon which the tax rate is applied in order to determine the amount of property taxes due.

(y) "Total amount financed" means the total amount of financing required by the home to fund construction, acquisition, rehabilitation, or refinancing. Seventy-five percent of this amount must be supplied by tax exempt bonds to receive the total exemption from property tax available under the tax exempt bond financing provision of RCW 84.36.041.

(3) **General requirements.** To be exempt under this section, a home for the aging must be:

(a) Exclusively used for the purposes for which exemption is granted, except as provided in RCW 84.36.805;

(b) Operated by an organization that is exempt from income tax under section 501(c) of the federal Internal Revenue Code; and

(c) The benefit of the exemption must inure to the home.

(4) **Total exemption.** There are three ways in which a home may be totally exempt from property tax. All real and personal property used by a nonprofit home that is reasonably necessary for the purposes of the home is exempt if it meets the general requirements listed in subsection (3) of this section and:

(a) At least fifty percent of the occupied dwelling units in the home are occupied by eligible residents;

(b) The home is subsidized under a HUD program; or

(c) The construction, rehabilitation, acquisition, or refinancing of a home is financed under a program using bonds exempt from federal income tax if at least seventy-five percent of the total amount financed uses tax exempt bonds and the financing program requires the home to reserve or set-aside a percentage of all dwelling units so financed for low-income residents. See subsections (5), (6), and (7) of this section for tax exempt bond requirements and the percentage of units that must be set-aside for low-income residents in order for the home to be totally exempt.

(5) **Homes or CCRCs financed by tax exempt bonds—Generally.** All real and personal property used by a nonprofit home or CCRC may be totally exempt from property tax if at least seventy-five percent of the total amount financed for construction, rehabilitation, acquisition, or refinancing uses tax exempt bonds and the financing program requires the home or CCRC to reserve or set-aside a percentage of all dwelling units so financed for low-income residents.

(a) The percentage of set-aside units required will vary depending on whether the home is a CCRC, the purpose for which the tax exempt bond financing was obtained, the type of dwelling unit, and the receipt of medicaid funds. The set-aside requirements for homes are

set forth in subsection (6) of this section and for CCRCs are set forth in subsection (7) of this section.

(b) The exemption will be granted in direct correlation to the total amount financed by tax exempt bonds and the portion of the home or CCRC that is constructed, acquired, rehabilitated, or refinanced by tax exempt bonds.

(c) If tax exempt bonds are used for refinancing, the set-aside requirements set forth in subsections (6) and (7) of this section will be applied to the actual area or portion of the home or CCRC to which the bonds correspond.

(i) Example 1. A CCRC (that accepts medicaid funds) is composed of a multistory building, six duplexes, and two independent homes and the CCRC has secured tax exempt bonds to satisfy an existing mortgage on the multistory building. Only the multistory building will be considered eligible for a total exemption from property tax because of tax exempt bond financing. To receive the exemption, at least twenty percent of the dwelling units of the multistory building must be set-aside for residents at or below fifty percent of the local median income or at least forty percent of the dwelling units must be set-aside for residents at or below sixty percent of the local median income.

(ii) Example 2. A home obtains tax exempt bonds to refinance a portion of the home and to fund construction. The department will separately consider the area of the home that corresponds to the purpose for which the tax exempt bonds were obtained. The set-aside requirements related to refinancing will be applied to the portion of the home that corresponds to the mortgage being refinanced and the set-aside requirements related to construction will be applied to the area of the home to be newly constructed. The department will determine the eligibility for partial exemption of the remainder of the home that is not being refinanced or constructed.

(d) If a total exemption is granted under the tax exempt bond financing provision, the total exemption will remain in effect as long as:

(i) The home or CCRC remains in compliance with the requirements under which it received the tax exempt bonds;

(ii) The tax exempt bonds are outstanding; and

(iii) The set-aside requirements are met.

(e) If a home or CCRC has obtained tax exempt bond financing to modify, improve, restore, extend, or enlarge its existing facility and the project does not meet the definition of rehabilitation contained in subsection (2) of this section, the project will not be considered a rehabilitation. In this situation, the set-aside requirements related to refinancing or acquisition will be applied in determining eligibility for a total exemption.

(f) When a home or CCRC no longer meets the criteria for exemption under the tax exempt bond financing portion of the statute, eligibility for exemption under RCW 84.34.041 will be determined by the other provisions of the statute. In other words, a home may receive a total or partial exemption depending on the number of residents who are deemed to be "eligible residents" or who require "assistance with activities of daily living." For example, if a home that previously received a total exemption due to the receipt of tax exempt bond financing has one hundred dwelling units and sixty of those dwelling units are occupied by eligible residents, the home may receive a total exemption.

(6) Set-aside requirements related to homes and tax exempt bond financing. A specified number of dwelling units within a home must be

set-aside for low income residents to obtain a total property tax exemption because of tax exempt bond financing. The set-aside requirements for homes will be determined according to the type of dwelling units contained in the home and the purpose for which the tax exempt bond financing was obtained. The provisions of this section do not apply to CCRCs. The specific set-aside requirements for CCRCs are described in subsection (7) of this section.

A home must meet the following set-aside requirements to be totally exempt from property tax:

PURPOSE OF BOND FINANCING	TYPE OF DWELLING UNIT	SET-ASIDE REQUIREMENTS
New construction or Rehabilitation	Complete & Separate units	10% of total units set-aside for residents at or below 80% of local median income and 10% of total units set-aside for residents at or below 50% of local median income
Acquisition or Refinancing of dwelling units currently satisfying 10% and 10% set-aside requirements	Complete & Separate units	10% of total units set-aside for residents at or below 80% of local median income and 10% of total units set-aside for residents at or below 50% of local median income
Acquisition or Refinancing of dwelling units not currently satisfying 10% and 10% set-aside requirements	Complete & Separate units	20% of total units set-aside for residents at or below 50% of local median income or 40% of total units set-aside for residents at or below 60% of local median income
Acquisition, New Construction, Refinancing, or Rehabilitation	Shared units	10% of total units set-aside for residents at or below 80% of local median income and 10% of total units set-aside for residents at or below 50% of local median income

(7) **Set-aside requirements related to CCRCs and tax exempt bond financing.** A specified number of dwelling units of a CCRC must be set-

aside for low income residents to obtain a total property tax exemption because of tax exempt bond financing. The set-aside requirements for CCRCs will be determined by whether the CCRC does or does not have medicaid contracts for continuing care contract residents and the purpose for which the tax exempt bond financing was obtained. The provisions of this section do not apply to other homes. The specific set-aside requirements for other homes are described in subsection (6) of this section.

(a) The continuing care contract between the resident and the CCRC is a contract to provide shelter along with nursing, medical, health-related or personal care services to the resident for the duration of the resident's life or for a term in excess of one year. A resident's tenancy may not be terminated due to inability of the resident to fully pay the monthly service fee when the resident establishes facts to justify a waiver or reduction of these charges. This provision shall not apply if the resident, without the CCRC's consent, has impaired his and/or her ability to meet financial obligations required by the continuing care contract due to a transfer of assets, after signing the continuing care contract, other than to meet ordinary and customary living expenses, or by incurring unusual or unnecessary new financial obligations.

(b) A CCRC without medicaid contracts for continuing care contract residents may not receive medicaid funds from Washington state or the federal government during the term that the bonds are outstanding, except during the initial transition period as allowed by state law or if the regulatory agreement with the tax exempt bond financier exempts the CCRC from compliance with this requirement.

(c) The following set-aside requirements must be met by CCRCs not receiving medicaid funds (including CCRCs that are permitted to receive medicaid funds during an initial transition period only) to receive a total exemption:

PURPOSE OF BOND FINANCING	SET-ASIDE REQUIREMENTS
New construction or Rehabilitation	10% of total units set-aside for residents at or below 80% of local median income and 15% of total units set-aside for residents at or below 100% of local median income
Acquisition or Refinancing of dwelling units currently satisfying 10% and 15% set-aside requirements	10% of total units set-aside for residents at or below 80% of local median income and 15% of total units set-aside for residents at or below 100% of local median income
Acquisition or Refinancing of dwelling units not currently satisfying 10% and 15% set-aside requirements	20% of total units set-aside for residents at or below 50% of local median income or 40% of total units set-aside for residents at or below 60% of local median income

(d) The following set-aside requirements must be met by CCRCs receiving medicaid funds to receive a total exemption:

PURPOSE OF BOND FINANCING	SET-ASIDE REQUIREMENTS
New construction or Rehabilitation	10% of total units set-aside for residents at or below 80% of local median income and 10% of total units set-aside for residents at or below 100% of local median income
Acquisition or Refinancing of dwelling units currently satisfying 10% and 10% set-aside requirements	10% of total units set-aside for residents at or below 80% of local median income and 10% of total units set-aside for residents at or below 100% of local median income
Acquisition or Refinancing of dwelling units not currently satisfying 10% and 10% set-aside requirements	20% of total units set-aside for residents at or below 50% of local median income or 40% of total units set-aside for residents at or below 60% of local median income

(8) **Partial exemption.** If a home does not qualify for a total exemption from property tax, the home may receive a partial exemption for its real property on a unit by unit basis and a total exemption for its personal property.

(a) Real property exemption. If the real property of a home is used in the following ways, the portion of the real property so used will be exempt and the home may receive a partial exemption for:

- (i) Each dwelling unit occupied by a resident requiring significant assistance with activities of daily living;
- (ii) Each dwelling unit occupied by an eligible resident; and
- (iii) Common or shared areas of the home that are jointly used for two or more purposes that are exempt from property tax under chapter 84.36 RCW.

(b) Assistance with activities of daily living. A home may receive a partial exemption for each dwelling unit that is occupied by a resident who requires significant assistance with the activities of daily living and the home provides, brokers, facilitates, or contracts for the provision of this assistance. A resident requiring assistance with the activities of daily living must be a resident who requires significant assistance with at least three of the nonexclusive list of activities set forth below and who, unless the resident receives the assistance, would be at risk of being placed in a nursing home. Activities of daily living include, but are not limited to:

- (i) Shopping;
- (ii) Meal and/or food preparation;
- (iii) Housekeeping;
- (iv) Transportation;
- (v) Dressing;
- (vi) Bathing;
- (vii) General personal hygiene;
- (viii) Monitoring of medication;
- (ix) Ambulatory services;
- (x) Laundry services;
- (xi) Incontinence management; and

(xii) Cuing for the cognitively impaired.

(c) Examples of assistance with the activities of daily living:

(i) If the resident of a home requires assistance with daily dressing, bathing, and personal hygiene, weekly housekeeping chores, and daily meal preparation, the person is a resident requiring significant assistance with activities of daily living and the home may receive a partial exemption for the dwelling unit in which the person resides.

(ii) If the resident of a CCRC only requires someone to clean the house weekly and to do the laundry weekly, the resident does not require significant assistance with activities of daily living and the CCRC may not receive a partial exemption for the dwelling unit.

(d) Common or shared areas. Areas of a home that are jointly used for two or more purposes exempt from property tax under chapter 84.36 RCW will be exempted under RCW 84.36.041.

(i) The joint use of the common or shared areas must be reasonably necessary for the purposes of the nonprofit organization, association, or corporation exempt from property tax under chapter 84.36 RCW. A kitchen, dining room, and laundry room are examples of the types of common or shared areas for which a partial property tax exemption may be granted.

(ii) Example. A nonprofit organization uses its facility as a home for the aging and a nursing home. The home and nursing home jointly use the kitchen and dining room. The home may receive a property tax exemption for the common or shared areas under RCW 84.36.041. The eligibility of the other areas of the facility will be determined by the appropriate statute. The home's eligibility will be determined by RCW 84.36.041 and the nursing home's eligibility will be determined by RCW 84.36.040.

(e) Amount of partial exemption. The amount of partial exemption will be calculated by multiplying the assessed value of the property reasonably necessary for the purposes of the home, minus/less the assessed value of any common or shared areas, by a fraction. The numerator and denominator of the fraction will vary depending on the first assessment year the home became operational and occupied by eligible residents.

(i) Numerator. If the home becomes operational after the January 1st assessment date, the numerator is the number of dwelling units occupied by eligible residents and by residents requiring assistance with activities of daily living on December 31st. The December 31st date will be used only in the first year of operation. In any other assessment year, the numerator is the number of the dwelling units occupied on January 1st of the assessment year by eligible residents and by residents requiring assistance with activities of daily living.

(ii) Denominator. If the home becomes operational after the January 1st assessment date, the denominator is the number of dwelling units occupied on December 31st. The December 31st date will be used only in the first assessment year the home becomes operational. In any other assessment year, the denominator is the total number of occupied dwelling units as of January 1st of the assessment year.

(iii) Example:

Assessed value of home:	\$500,000
Less assessed value of common area:	<u>-80,000</u>
Total	\$420,000

Number of units occupied on 1/1 by
eligible residents and people
requiring assistance with daily living
activities = 6

Total of occupied units on 1/1 40 or .15

\$420,000 x .15 = \$63,000 Amount of partial exemption

\$420,000 - \$63,000 = \$357,000 Taxable value of home

(f) Valuation of the home. The assessor will value a home that receives a partial exemption by considering only the current use of the property during the period in which the partial exemption is received and will not consider any potential use of the property.

(9) **Income verification required from some residents.** If a home seeks a total property tax exemption because at least fifty percent of the occupied dwelling units are occupied by eligible residents or seeks to receive a partial exemption based upon the number of units occupied by eligible residents, the residents must submit income verification forms. The department may request income verification forms from residents of homes receiving a total exemption because of tax exempt bond financing.

(a) The income verification forms must be submitted to the assessor of the county in which the home is located by July 1st of the assessment year in which the application for exemption is made. If the home becomes operational after the January 1st assessment date, these forms must be submitted to the assessor as soon as they are available but no later than December 31st of that assessment year.

(b) The income verification form will be prescribed and furnished by the department of revenue.

(c) If an eligible resident filed an income verification form for a previous year, the resident is not required to submit a new form unless there is a change in status affecting the resident's eligibility, such as a significant increase or decrease in disposable income, or the assessor or the department requests a new income verification form to be submitted.

(10) **Additional requirements.** Any nonprofit home for the aging that applies for a property tax exemption under this section must also comply with the provisions of WAC 458-16A-020 and 458-16-165. WAC 458-16A-020 contains information regarding the initial application and renewal procedures relating to the exemption discussed in this section. WAC 458-16-165 sets forth additional requirements that must be complied with to obtain a property tax exemption pursuant to RCW 84.36.041.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 84.08.010, 84.08.070, 84.52.0502, and 84.55.060. WSR 15-22-086, § 458-16A-010, filed 11/3/15, effective 12/4/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 84.36.041 and 84.36.865. WSR 08-16-064, § 458-16A-010, filed 7/30/08, effective 8/30/08; WSR 00-09-086, § 458-16A-010, filed 4/18/00, effective 5/19/00; WSR 99-04-016, § 458-16A-010, filed 1/22/99, effective 2/22/99. Statutory Authority: RCW 84.08.010, 84.08.070 and 84.36.041. WSR 95-06-041, § 458-16A-010, filed 2/24/95, effective 3/27/95.]