

**TOWN OF LEDYARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING:** The Ledyard Town Council will conduct a Hybrid Format Public Hearing (In-Person & Video Conference) on Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. regarding the following: (1) Proposed “*An Ordinance Providing Tax Relief For Gold Star Families in the Town of Ledyard*”.(2) Proposed amendments to Ordinance #100-011 “*An Ordinance Establishing Social Services Board For the Town of Ledyard*”. Join the Public Hearing in-person at the Council Chambers, Town Hall Annex Building 741 Colonel Ledyard Highway, Ledyard, Connecticut; or join by video conference at: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88925274183?pwd=vpoiOCPOmCsu4qXJtjR4ojMnTpfMN.1>; or by audio only dial: +1 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 889 2527 4183; Passcode: 432162. At this hearing interested persons may appear and be heard and written communications will be accepted at [towncouncil@ledyardct.org](mailto:towncouncil@ledyardct.org). Dated at Ledyard, Connecticut this 29th day of August, 2024. For the Ledyard Town Council, s/s S. Naomi Rodriguez, Chairman

**Publish in the Day Newspaper on Monday, September 2, 2024**

***(1) An Ordinance Providing Tax Relief For Gold Star Families in the Town of Ledyard***

**BACKGROUND:**

In a letter dated May 10, 2024 State Senator Cathy Osten brought to the Town Council’s attention Public Act 17-65 which was enacted in 2017 “*An Act Concerning a Municipal Option Property Tax Exemption for Gold Star Parents or Spouses*”

This act allows a municipality, with its legislative body's approval, to provide a property tax exemption to any parent or surviving spouse of a service member killed in action while performing active military duty with the U.S. Armed Forces (i.e., “Gold Star” parent or surviving spouse). A municipality may exempt up to \$20,000 or 10% of the property's assessed value.

The Public Act required the Application include following documentation:

1. At least two affidavits from disinterested persons showing the (a) deceased service member was killed in action while performing active military duty and (b) relationship between the service member and parent or surviving spouse and
2. A copy of the parent's or surviving spouse's federal income tax return or, if a return is not filed, income-related evidence required by the assessor for the tax year immediately before the assessment date for which the exemption is claimed.

DRAFT: 5/14/2024

Ordinance #200-XXX

AN ORDINANCE  
PROVIDING TAX RELIEF FOR GOLD STAR FAMILIES  
IN THE TOWN OF LEDYARD

Be it ordained by the Town Council of the Town of Ledyard

Section 1: Authority

Pursuant to the authority of P.A. 17-65 enacted on October 1, 2017 “*An Act Concerning Municipal Option Property Tax Exemption for Gold Star Parents or Spouses*” there is hereby established “*An Ordinance Providing Tax Relief for Gold Star Families In the Town of*

*Ledyard*'.

## Section 2: Purpose

To provide an exemption from property tax for property that is owned by a parent whose child was killed in action, or by the surviving spouse of a person who was killed in action, while performing active military duty with the Armed Forces, as such term is defined in Subsection (a) of Section 27-103 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended.

## Section 3: Eligibility for Exemption

To be eligible any parent or surviving spouse of a service member killed in action while performing active military duty the following conditions must be met:

- (a) Application: Completed application shall be filed with the office of the Tax Assessor.
- (b) Residency: Persons qualified for a benefit under this Ordinance is a parent or surviving spouse who own real property located in the Town of Ledyard, or who are liable for the payment of taxes thereon under Section 12-48 of the General Statutes, and occupy the property as his or her principal residence at least 183 days of each year; and the time the application is made, and at all times during which the parent or surviving spouse is receiving an exemption pursuant to this Ordinance, the parent or surviving spouse shall be living in the Town of Ledyard.
- (c) Qualifying Income: The parent's or surviving spouse'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, shall not exceed the sum of the maximum qualifying income for individuals if unmarried, or jointly with spouse if married, as set forth in Section 12-81 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
- (d) Surviving Spouses: The surviving spouse must have been legally married to the person who was killed in action at the time of such person's death, in accordance with Title 46b; Chapter 815E, of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended.
- (e) Parents: If both parents of any such child killed in action while performing active military duty with the Armed Forces are domiciled together, only one such parent shall be entitled to the exemption from property tax provided for under this section.

If both parents of any such child killed in action while performing active military service with the Armed Forces are not domiciled together, both parents shall be eligible to receive the exemption provided for under this section.

## Section 4: Amount of Exemption; Certified List

- (1) The exemption of property shall be in an amount of up-to \$20,000, or 10% of the assessed value of the property owned by the surviving spouse or the parent(s) of a child who was killed in action.
- (2) The exemption provided under this Ordinance shall be in addition to any exemption to which an eligible parent or surviving spouse may be entitled under Section 12-81 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended.

No such eligible parent(s) or surviving spouse entitled to exemption under Section 12-81 or 12-8 lg of the Connecticut General Statutes and this section shall receive more than one such exemption.

- (3) The Assessor shall annually make a certified list of all such parents or surviving spouses who are found to be entitled to an exemption, which list shall be filed in the office of the Town Clerk in the Town of Ledyard.

Section 5: Application Procedure and Requirements.

(1) Any parent whose child was killed in action or the surviving spouse of a person who was killed in action (the "applicant") submitting a claim for an exemption of property tax under this Ordinance shall submit an application, on a form prepared by the Tax Assessor, to the Tax Assessor's Office not later than October 1st (the "application").

The application shall include a copy of the two recorded affidavits described in Subsection 2(a)(b) of this Section, and the applicant's federal income tax return, or in the event such a return is not filed, such evidence related to income, as may be required by the Tax Assessor, for the entire calendar year ending immediately prior to the October 1st in which the application for exemption is made.

(2) The applicant shall also file with the office of the Town Clerk at least two affidavits, in such form as approved by the Tax Assessor, of two (2) different disinterested persons stating the following:

(a) The deceased child or spouse was killed in action while performing active duty with the Armed Forces, as defined in Section 27-103(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes; and

(b) That the applicant is the parent or surviving spouse of the person who was killed in action.

(4) The affidavits shall be recorded in full in the office of the Town Clerk, free of charge, and such recording shall list the name of such parent or surviving spouse claiming the exemption.

No exemption shall be granted unless the affidavits have been recorded in the office of the Town Clerk; and until the application has been deemed complete by the Assessor's Office.

Section 6: Renewal and Termination of Exemption, Penalties.

(1) The applicant shall be required to reapply for this exemption on a biennial basis. The failure of the applicant to reapply for this exemption on a biennial basis shall result in the termination of the applicant's exemption.

(2) When an exemption has been granted, the applicant shall, in the assessment year immediately following the date of approval, be presumed qualified for such exemption.

- (3) On a biennial basis, during the year immediately following the approval of an applicant's exemption, the Tax Assessor may, by August 1st, notify each parent or surviving spouse presumed to be qualified for such exemption in writing, and if any applicant has income in excess of the maximum allowed under Section 3(b) this Ordinance, such applicant shall notify the Assessor on or before the next October 1st and shall be denied the exemption for the assessment year immediately following and for any subsequent year until such applicant has reapplied and again qualified for such exemption.

The failure of the Assessor's Office to send such notice by August 1st shall waive the requirements of this Section for that assessment year, and the applicants presumed to be qualified for the exemption shall continue to receive an exemption for such assessment year.

- (4) Any notice under this section shall be deemed effective if it was mailed by regular mail to the applicant's last known address on file in the office of the Tax Collector.
- (5) If at any time it is determined that the applicant has obtained the exemption set forth in this Ordinance improperly, or was based on any misrepresentation or fraud, then upon discovery of such fact by the office of the Tax Assessor, the exemption shall be terminated immediately and the applicant shall make payment to the Town of Ledyard in the full amount of the property tax loss related to such exemption improperly taken within 30- days of such written demand from the Town of Ledyard.

Section 7. Severability

If any section, or part of a section, of this Ordinance shall be held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such holding shall not be deemed to invalidate the remaining provisions hereof.

Section 8. Effective Date

In accordance with the Town Charter this ordinance shall become effective on the twenty-first (21st) day after such publication following its final passage.

Adopted by the Town Council on: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
S. Naomi Rodriguez, Chairman

Approved / Disapproved on: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fred B. Allyn, III., Mayor

Published on:

Effective Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patricia A. Riley, Town Clerk

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History: The State of Connecticut adopted Public Act #17-65 “An Act Concerning a Municipal Option Property Tax Exemption for Gold Star Parents or Spouses” in 2017. To provide families who lost a child or spouse in the line of duty with some tax relief the Town Council adopted the “An Ordinance Providing Tax Relief for Gold Star Families In the Town of Ledyard” on:

Town of Ledyard  
 Gold Star Parents or Spouses Exemption Application  
 Application Filing Deadline: October 1<sup>st</sup> (Applicant must re-file every two years)  
**To be completed by the Property Owner (Applicant)**

1	NAME (Last)	(First)	(Middle Initial)
2	SPOUSE'S NAME (Last)	(First)	(Middle Initial)
3	MAILING ADDRESS- Street)	(City)	(State) (Zip)
4	PROPERTY ADDRESS (Only if different than mailing)		
5	FILING STATUS (Check one):            Gold Star Parent: _____    Gold Star Spouse: _____		
6	The applicant must provide at least two affidavits of disinterested persons showing that the deceased child or person was killed in action while performing military duty, and the relationship of the deceased person to the applicant Please attach your affidavits to this application. Please place a check mark below to indicate that each affidavit is being provided:  Affidavit #1 _____                      Affidavit #2 _____		
7	Did you or will you file a Federal Income Tax Return for the tax year preceding the year of this application? Yes: _____    No: _____	_____ Grand List	
8	<b>This application must be re-filed every two-years</b>		
	INCOME DURING THE 20 _____ CALENDAR YEAR		
	(a) TAXABLE INCOME - Examples: Wages, Bonuses, Commissions, Fees, Lottery Winnings, Taxable Portion of Annuities and Pensions, Interest, Dividends, Net Rent or proceeds from the sale of a property, etc. * <b>Federal Income Tax Return, enter the amount of adjusted gross income plus any other income and attach a copy of the return to this application. *</b> a. \$ _____ <b>If you are required to file a</b>		
	(b) NON-TAXABLE INTEREST - Example: Interest from tax exempt Government Bonds * <b>Please include any available documentation. *</b>		b. \$ _____
	(c) SECURITY OR RAILROAD RETIREMENT INCOME (GROSS AMOUNT) * <b>Include a copy of most recent 1099 or statement showing annual benefits, *</b>		SOCIAL c. \$ _____
	(d) THE ABOVE - Examples: Supplemental Security income, Public Assistance payments, Veteran Pensions and Disability payments, etc. * <b>Please include any available documentation. *</b>		ANY INCOME NOT REFLECTED IN d. \$ _____
	(e) TOTAL	Add lines 8a through 8d	TOTAL e. \$ _____

**The Applicant hereby applies for a property tax exemption for Gold Star parents and spouse pursuant to Town of Ledyard Code of Ordinances #200-\_\_\_\_\_ and applicable Connecticut General Statutes.**

1. The address of the real property for this application as requested is \_\_\_\_\_ (The Property")
2. The applicant(s) certifies that they meet the requirements of a) residency, b) qualifying income, c) all other terms as included in the attached ordinance in order to qualify for this exemption.
3. The applicant(s) hereby agree(s) that the affidavits provided in Item #6 above [Section (c)(l) of the ordinance ] will be recorded with the Ledyard Town Clerk's Office.
4. The applicant(s) hereby agree(s) to remain in compliance with all the other terms of the attached ordinance, and to notify the Town of Ledyard Assessor's Office if the applicant(s) does not remain in compliance with all the other terms of the Ordinance.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: # \_\_\_\_\_  
(If authorized agent, please print name also and indicate relationship to applicant)

Assessor's Office Use Only: (Staff Signature): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

***DIRECTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS TAX EXEMPTION  
APPLICATION***

**PLEASE REVIEW THE APPLICATION BEFORE YOU START TO FILL OUT THE  
APPLICATION. PRINT OR TYPE ALL ENTRIES (EXCEPT SIGNATURE).**

Please make certain that you:

- ✓ Fill out every item on the application, Items 1 - 8e.
- ✓ Fill out the location of the property where the exemption is to be applied.
- ✓ Sign, and date your application and also provide a phone number.

You are required to submit proof of your income for the prior calendar year to the Tax Assessor before your application can be accepted. This proof may consist of your Federal Income Tax Return, bank statements which show interest earned, statements received from trust accounts, dividend earning statements, statements from the Social Security Administration (Form SSA 1099 is required).

***The ordinance enabling this exemption requires that:***

The application shall include at least two affidavits of disinterested persons showing that the deceased child or person was performing such active military duty, that such deceased child or person was killed in action while performing such active military duty and the relationship of such deceased child to such parent, or such deceased person to such surviving spouse, provided that the Tax Assessor may further require such parent or surviving spouse to be examined by such Tax Assessor under oath concerning such facts.

The affidavits required in Section 5 shall be recorded in the Ledyard Town Clerk's Office, free of charge, and such recording shall list the name of such parent or surviving spouse claiming the exemption. No exemption shall be granted unless the affidavits have been recorded in the Town Clerk's Office and until the application has been deemed complete by the Tax Assessor.

Your completed application must be received by October 1<sup>st</sup> in the Tax Assessor's Office. The Tax Assessor's Office and the Town Clerk's Office are located on the first floor of the Ledyard Town Hall at 741 Colonel Ledyard Highway, Ledyard, Connecticut. The Ledyard Town Hall is open Mondays through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Our mailing addresses are as follows:

Tax Assessor Office

Town of Ledyard

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway

Ledyard Connecticut 06339

- Telephone: (860) 464-3237

Town Clerk Office

Town of Ledyard

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway

Ledyard Connecticut 06339

- Telephone: (860) 464-3229

(2) Proposed amendments to Ordinance #100-011 “*An Ordinance Establishing Social Services Board For the Town of Ledyard*”.

**BACKGROUND:**

Recent changes to area School Health Programs provided Ledyard with an all-inclusive Health Program that now included licensed Mental Health Clinicians who provide counseling support. Because the clients our Youth Services Department was servicing were all Ledyard Public School Students, the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget did not provide funding to continue the operation of our Youth Services Department providing a savings of \$103,971. Also, the approximate \$150,500 remaining from \$190,000 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding the Town Council allocated for Mental Health Clinicians would be redirected to pay for the Mental Health Clinicians offered through the Board of Education’s Program. Therefore, Ordinance 100-011 was being amended to remove language pertaining to “Youth Services”.

**DRAFT: 6/4/2024**

Ordinance #100-011 (*rev. 2*)

AN ORDINANCE  
ESTABLISHING A ~~YOUTH &~~ SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD  
FOR THE TOWN OF LEDYARD

Be it ordained by the Town Council of the Town of Ledyard:

Section 1. Authority

Pursuant to ~~Chapter 164, Section 10-19m of~~ the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut, and Chapter IV, Section 9 of the Charter of the Town of Ledyard, there is hereby established a ~~Youth and~~ Social Services Board for the Town of Ledyard.

Section 2. Purpose

The Board shall be responsible for providing outreach and ~~community education;~~ *program direction in the delivery of human services* to meet the needs of ~~youth,~~ families and individuals in the Town of Ledyard.

Section 3. Duties

The Board will be responsible for receiving and reviewing ~~Youth and~~ Social Services Program reports to identify issues and trends and make recommendations. The Board shall perform community outreach and seek potential partnerships for the ~~Youth and~~ Social Services Program. The Board shall distribute ~~Youth and~~ Social Services Program materials to the community and work to identify ~~youth,~~ families and individuals in need.

Section 4. Fiscal Responsibilities

The Board shall annually review the ~~Youth and~~ Social Services Program budget and make recommendations as necessary prior to submission to the Mayor’s Office.

*The Board shall make recommendations and promote fundraising efforts for*

## *Social Service Programs.*

### Section 5. ~~Youth and~~ Social Services Board Membership

The ~~Youth and~~ Social Services Board shall be composed of not less than seven (7) members appointed by the Mayor, who *shall be electors of the Town of Ledyard*. ~~Said appointees shall all be Ledyard electors, and include at least one representative from the school system, police, a private youth-serving agency, a youth currently under the age of twenty-one (21) and a Community-at-large member.~~

The Board shall annually elect a Chairman and Recording Secretary from its membership. Regular meetings shall be held per the by-laws of the ~~Youth and~~ Social Services Board. Special meetings may be called by a majority of the members of the Board.

Membership on any other Board, Commission, or Committee of the Town of Ledyard shall not preclude membership on the ~~Youth and~~ Social Services Board.

*In making the original appointments under this ordinance, the Mayor shall designate (3) member to serve for three (3) years; 2 members to serve for two (2) years members; two (2) members to serve for one (1) year. Thereafter members shall commence to serve their terms immediately upon appointment and* shall serve until their successor has qualified or they have been reappointed or removed by the Mayor.

Any member of the Board who is absent from three (3) consecutive regular meetings and any intervening duly called special meetings shall be considered to have resigned from the Board. The vacancy shall be filled as herein before provided. Additionally, the Board may vote to waive the requirements of this section in each case where illness or other extenuating circumstances make it impossible for a member to meet the attendance requirements of this action.

It shall be the responsibility of the Chairman of the Board to notify the Mayor when a member has not properly performed his/her duties.

### Section 6. *Implementation*

*Within two weeks after the adoption date of this ordinance, all current members of the Youth & Social Services Board for the Town of Ledyard shall indicate to the chairman their desire to serve on the Social Services Board.*

*The chairman shall thereafter report to the Mayor the desires of their members. In addition, the chairman shall make recommendations to the Mayor regarding present members to serve on the Social Services Board.*

*The Mayor shall appoint members to the Social Services Board no later than the 90 days from the effective date of the Ordinance.*

### Section 7. Severability

If any section, or part of a section, of this Ordinance shall be held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such holding shall not be deemed to invalidate the remaining provisions hereof.



Section 8. Effective Date

In accordance with the Town Charter this ordinance shall become effective on the twenty-first (21st) day after such publication following its final passage.

Amended and Adopted by the Town Council on: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
S. Naomi Rodriguez, Chairman

Approved / Disapproved on: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fred B. Allyn, III., Mayor

Published on:

Effective Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patricia A. Riley, Town Clerk

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Revision: *Ordinance #47 “An Ordinance Establishing Youth Services for the Town of Ledyard”* Adopted: April 17, 1990; Amended and Adopted: on February 14, 2001; Effective: February 15, 2001. Amended and Renumbered on September 25, 2019; Effective: October 23, 2019. ***Amended and Renamed on XXX; Effective: XXX***

History:

The Twenty-fourth Town Council (2017-2019) Ordinance Update Initiative: Renumbered *Ordinance #47 “Amendment to Ordinance #47 An Ordinance Establishing Youth Services for the Town of Ledyard”* to Ordinance #100-011.

2019: Removed from Ordinance “*An Ordinance Amending*” per Town Attorney, the History paragraphs indicates that the Ordinance was “amended”. Section 4 “*Youth Advisory Committee*” added language regarding attendance and filling vacancies to be consistent with ordinances establishing committees. Added Section 5 “*Severability*” to be consistent with Town Ordinance format. Added Section 6 “*Effective Date*” to be consistent with Town Ordinance format.

2020: Title: Added “*& Social Services*”.

Section 1 Authority: Removed “an amendment to ordinance #47- Per Town Attorney this language was not needed, as the “History” paragraphs indicates that the document was amended.

Section 2 Purpose: Removed “This agency shall be responsible for providing opportunities and programs for positive youth development as well as evaluating, planning, coordinating, and implementing services for youth referred to it by schools, police, juvenile courts, local youth serving agencies, parents and self-referrals by youth” and replaced it with the following: “*This Board shall be responsible for providing outreach and community education to meet the needs of youth, families and individuals in*

*the Town of Ledyard.*”.

Section 3 Duties: Removed: “The Youth Services of the Town of Ledyard shall be responsible for establishing the overall policy and program direction of youth services. This agency of the Town of Ledyard may provide, but shall not be limited to the delivery of, the following services: individual and family counseling; parent training and group therapy; crisis intervention; drug and alcohol awareness and prevention programs; dial-a-teen job placement; court advocacy; information and referral; and outreach programs to insure participation and planning by the entire community for the development of youth services. Such services shall be designed to meet the needs of youth by collaborating with other systems and agencies such as the justice system and schools as well as by the provision of opportunities for positive youth development”. Replaced it with “*This Board will be responsible for receiving and reviewing Youth and Social Services Program reports to identify issues and trends and make recommendations. The Board shall perform community outreach and seek potential partnerships for the Youth and Social Services Program. The Board shall distribute Youth and Social Services Program materials to the community and work to identify youth, families and individuals in need.*”

Added New Section 4 “Fiscal responsibilities”. Former Section 4 became Section 5. Updated Section Title deleting “Advisory” and adding “*and Social Services Membership*”. Removed “As part of Youth Services, a youth advisory” and replaced it with “*The Youth and Social Services Board shall be*”. Removed; “shall be”. Changed Term from two (2) year to “*three (3) year*”. Added; “*all be Ledyard electors, and*”. Removed “public health nursing agency and”. Added “*and a community-at-large member*”. Removed: “and provided further that one-third of the total membership shall consist of members who earn less than 50 percent of their wages or livelihood by delivering services to youths and their families, and who manifest an interest in youth services”. Added: “*The Board shall annually elect a Chairman and Recording Secretary from its membership. Regular meetings shall be held per the by-laws of the Youth and Social Services Board. Special meetings may be called by a majority of the members of the Board. Membership on any other Board, Commission, or Committee of the Town of Ledyard shall not preclude membership on the Youth and Social Services Board.*”

The word “Department” was replaced with “*Program*” throughout the document.

The word “Committee” was replaced with “*Board*” throughout the document to be consistent with the Town Charter.

***2024: Ordinance #100-011 “An Ordinance Establishing a Youth & Social Services Board for the Town of Ledyard” amended to remove ~~and Youth~~ throughout the document.***

***Section 1: “authority” Removed ~~Chapter 164, Section 10-19m of.~~ and updated Chapter IV, Section 9.***

***Section 2: “Purpose” Paragraph 1 Removed ~~community education,;~~—Also added program direction in the delivery of human services.***

***Section 4: “Fiscal Responsibilities” Paragraph 2 added *The Board shall make recommendations and promote fundraising efforts for Social Service Programs.****

***Section 5: "Social Services Board Membership"***

***Paragraph 1 Replaced*** ~~Said appointees shall all be Ledyard electors, and include at least one representative from the school system, police, a private youth-serving agency, a youth currently under the age of twenty one (21) and a Community at large member. with shall be electors of the Town of Ledyard.~~

***Paragraph 4 Added the following language: In making the original appointments under this ordinance, the Mayor shall designate (3) member to serve for three (3) years; 2 members to serve for two (2) years members; two (2) members to serve for one (1) year. Thereafter members; Also removed shall commence to serve their terms immediately upon appointment and.***

***Section 6: "Implementation" Added paragraphs 1-3.***