



City of Gainesville

Department of Financial Services
Revenue & Receivables

2026 Fire Assessment Hardship Program (FAHAP)

Dear Neighbor:

The Fire Assessment Hardship Assistance Program (FAHAP) provides a reduction in the non-ad valorem fire special assessment on low-income and senior homeowners' annual property tax bills. The City of Gainesville is accepting applications for the 2026 program. Enclosed with this letter are: (a) the income limit table and (b) the 2026 Program Application.

If you have previous years' balances for property taxes or assessments, you may be eligible for relief if you qualify for 2026 FAHAP assistance. If tax certificates were issued for your property, you may be eligible for relief from 2019 through 2025. If you have paid the property taxes, you may be eligible for relief for 2023, 2024, & 2025.

The primary FAHAP application period is February 16, 2026 through April 30, 2026. Applications must be *received on or before noon on Wednesday, April 30, 2026*. If you choose to mail your application, please mail it by Tuesday, April 22, 2026 to give enough time for the post office to deliver. Applications received after the deadline will be reviewed for the August 2026 late application period.

You may return your application with supporting documentation by the methods below; applications are not accepted by email:

By Mail:	City of Gainesville Attn: FAHAP/Station 47 PO Box 490 Gainesville, FL 32627-0490	In-office:	City Hall 200 E University Ave, 3 rd Floor Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Do not use the drop box at City Hall
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Online: <https://form.jotform.com/253554518936063> – you will need to upload the required documents and electronically sign the application.

If you have any questions about FAHAP or if you need assistance, please call (352) 334-5024 or send an email to citybc@gainesvillefl.gov. You must put 2026 FAHAP in the subject line! Community Builders are available to assist you Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., excluding holidays.

Thank you.

Poverty Thresholds for 2025 by Size of Family and Number of Related Children Under 18 Years

Use this Table for Income Limits for FAHAP Qualification

Size of family unit	Related children under 18 years								
	None	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven	Eight or more
One person (unrelated individual):									
Under 65 years.....	21,774								
65 years and over.....	20,072								
Two people:									
Householder under 65 years.....	28,025	28,847							
Householder 65 years and over.....	25,298	28,738							
Three people.....	32,738	33,687	33,719						
Four people.....	43,169	43,875	42,444	42,591					
Five people.....	52,059	52,816	51,199	49,947	49,183				
Six people.....	59,878	60,115	58,876	57,689	55,923	54,877			
Seven people.....	68,896	69,326	67,843	66,810	64,884	62,638	60,173		
Eight people.....	77,055	77,735	76,336	75,110	73,371	71,162	68,864	68,280	
Nine people or more.....	92,691	93,141	91,902	90,862	89,155	86,806	84,681	84,154	80,913

This Table reflects 130% of the poverty threshold determined by the U. S. Census Bureau.



2026 Fire Assessment Hardship Assistance Program (FAHAP)

Instructions: All sections of this application must be completed; if a section does not apply to your household, enter N/A. Refer to page 3 for the required supporting documentation that must be submitted with this application.

Applicant Information

Choose hardship type: Low income Senior Citizen Low income Non-Senior Citizen

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Gender: _____ Marital Status: _____

Property Address: _____

Phone 1: _____ Phone 2: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____

Property Details

- 1) Have you applied for this assistance in past years, regardless of approval? Yes No
- 2) Have you occupied the property for the past 12 months and is the property your present primary residence? Yes No
- 3) Do you intend to maintain this property as your primary residence for the remainder of the present tax year? Yes No
- 4) Do you owe property taxes for the year you are requesting assistance? Yes No
- 5) Do you agree to immediately notify the City of Gainesville if you vacate or sell the property? Yes No

Household Income and/or Public Assistance

- 1) Did any adults in your household file a 2024 income tax return? Yes No
 If YES, what was the total annual adjusted gross (before taxes) income for 2024 for all adults in the household? \$ _____
 If NO, what is the total current monthly gross (before taxes) income for your household (including regular social security payments)? \$ _____
- 2) Does anyone in the household receive TANF Cash Assistance, Food Stamps, or SSI? Yes No
 If yes, what is the amount of the benefit? \$ _____

Household Members

You must provide the information below for all members of your household.

Name: _____ DOB: _____ Relationship: _____

Asset Disclosure

- Do you have any bank, credit union, money market, and/or prepaid/benefit card accounts? Yes No
- Do you own any other properties? Yes No
- Do you own stocks, bonds, or other securities? Yes No
- Do you keep cash on hand? Yes No

Applicant Certification

Note: If this application is submitted for a property with multiple deeded owners, each owner must sign this application. If anyone signs by Power-of-Attorney (POA), a copy of the POA must be attached.

(Required) This application for hardship assistance is for the 2026 tax year and/or previous tax years.

Under penalty of perjury, I/we certify that the information provided in this application, and in any accompanying documentation, is true and correct. I/we further certify that I am the owner of the above-listed residential property, am entitled to a hardship exemption pursuant to the requirements of the Gainesville Code of Ordinances section 11-39.1, and have the present intent to maintain the residential property as my/our permanent residence throughout the remainder of the fiscal year for which the assessment is imposed.

I understand the completion and submission of this application is not a guarantee of assistance granted by the City of Gainesville. The information provided is subject to review and verification by the City of Gainesville through its employees and/or agents in order to determine eligibility for the hardship assistance. I understand that providing inaccurate or incomplete information will result in a denial of assistance. Furthermore, I understand that all information provided to the City of Gainesville is subject to release to other persons and entities pursuant to the Florida Public Records Law unless such record is otherwise exempt or confidential by law.

Property Owner 1 Name: _____

Property Owner 1 Signature: _____

Property Owner 2 Name: _____

Property Owner 2 Signature: _____

Date: _____

For City Use Only

Application received on: _____

Reviewer: _____

Application Status: Approved Denied Date: _____

If denied, reason: _____

Application Status Letter Sent On: _____

Required Documentation

Do not submit original documents – only send copies with the hardship assistance application. Documents will not be returned.

The documents below must be submitted with the hardship assistance application. Missing, illegible, or damaged documents may result in delayed processing or denial of assistance.

Privacy Note: When submitting the supporting documentation, please redact any personal protected information (PPI) which includes social security numbers and bank account numbers.

- Photo ID (driver license/state ID card) for all property owners
- Proof of home ownership and homestead exemption – Homestead Exemption Receipt or printout from Alachua County Property Appraiser website (www.acpafl.org).
- Proof of household income, see below:
 - 2024 Income Tax Return
 - Social Security statements
 - If currently employed, a copy of pay stubs for 1/1/2026-2/28/2026
 - Proof of SSI, SSDI, child support payments, alimony payments, investment returns from 1/1/2026-2/28/2026
 - If applicable, benefit notices for TANF Cash Assistance or food stamps in effect as of 2/28/2026
 - Statements for all bank, credit union, money market, and prepaid/benefit card accounts dated 2/28/2026 or later

To determine income eligibility, the City of Gainesville uses the Poverty Threshold published by the Census Bureau for the calendar year immediately preceding the assistance program year. For example, the 2024 Poverty Threshold for the 2025 assistance program year.