

# LERTA

## Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance

The City of Altoona and City Council has implemented the LERTA program City-wide to provide tax incentives for the rehabilitation and development of qualified business property and qualified dwelling units, thereby encouraging revitalization and development of these areas for the benefit of all concerned.

**How does LERTA work?** It's relatively simple! Here are the steps:

1. **TAXPAYER:** will apply for the LERTA exemption at the time of obtaining a building permit, and shall comply with the procedures established by the City of Altoona. After completing your project, you will provide the City and Blair County Tax Assessment with a Certificate of Completion so that Blair County Tax Assessment may assess the improvements separately for the purpose of calculating the amount of assessment eligible for tax exemption in accordance with the limits established (see second page for the limits).
2. **CITY:** will forward a copy of each LERTA exemption request to Blair County Tax Assessment with a copy of the permit.
3. **TAXPAYER:** will provide the City and Blair County Tax Assessment with a certificate of completion issued by the owner, or an independent architect or professional engineer, so that the Assessor may assess the improvements separately for the purpose of calculating the amount of assessment eligible for tax exemption in accordance with the limits established herein. In the absence of said certificate, Blair County Tax Assessment may determine the date of completion
4. **COUNTY:** Treasurer of the County of Blair shall then obtain from Blair County Tax Assessment the amount of the assessment eligible for exemption and shall notify the taxpayer in accordance with county ordinances and procedures. The Treasurer of the County of Blair is authorized to make refunds, if applicable, only after Blair County Tax Assessment has notified the Treasurer of its separate assessment upon the improvement for which an exemption is requested. Appeals from the reassessment and the amount eligible for the exemption may be taken by the taxpayer as provided by law.

**Exemption schedules:** In each area so designated, improvements shall be exempted from the City of Altoona real property taxes as further provided for hereinafter, in accordance with the table below. The exemption from real property taxes granted pursuant to the provisions hereof shall be upon the property exempted and shall not terminate upon the sale or exchange of the property. If an eligible property is granted a tax exemption pursuant to the provisions hereof, the improvements shall not, during the exemption period, be considered as a factor in assessing other properties.

For the first fiscal year for which improvements would otherwise be taxable, 100% of the eligible assessment shall be exempted;	For the fourth fiscal year, 40%;
For the second fiscal year, 80%;	For the fifth fiscal year, 20%;
For the third fiscal year, 60%;	After the fifth fiscal year, the exemption shall terminate

**Exemption amounts:** In the case of improvements, exemption from the City of Altoona real property taxes upon completion shall be limited to the additional assessment valuation attributable to the actual cost of improvements. In no case shall any tax exemption be granted pursuant to the provisions hereof if the property owner has not secured or does not secure the necessary and proper zoning, building, health, housing, electrical, plumbing or the required permits prior to initiating the business improvement work.

**QUESTIONS?** We can help. Please call us 814-949-2456 or email us [inspections@altoonapa.gov](mailto:inspections@altoonapa.gov). You may also contact Blair County Tax Assessment at 814-693-3110