



## 2021 Dues Adjustment/Waiver Information

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### **The American Institute of Architects Bylaws – Regarding Dues Waivers**

#### 3.12 Hardship Dues Reduction by the Component:

The component, in exceptional circumstances and after consultation with the Institute Secretary and other assigned components, may waive all or any part of the dues or fees in equal proportions across all components owed by a member at any level of membership in the AIA.

### **The American Institute of Architects Rules of the Board – Regarding Dues Waivers**

#### 3.021 Waiver and Deferral of Institute Dues Payments:

The Secretary may waive or defer payment of the Institute dues of any member for up to one year upon written presentation of satisfactory evidence of financial hardship, medical disability, sabbatical, family leave, unemployment or partial employment or such other hardship as may reasonably justify waiver or deferral. A minimum annual payment may be required in all cases to cover the costs of mailings. A waiver for any of the reasons stated above is annual and renewable upon written request for up to a total of three consecutive years; no waivers will be granted beyond that three-year period except in those instances in which compelling and extraordinary reasons are demonstrated for doing so.

## FAQ's

### **What will a member need to demonstrate eligibility for an adjustment/waiver request?**

A member who meets one or more of the qualifications below may request a waiver of his/her membership dues:

- Financial Hardship
- Medical Disability
- Sabbatical
- Family Leave
- Unemployment/partial employment
- Other exceptional circumstances (*A member must complete the 2021 Exceptional Circumstances Dues Adjustment Request Form under this category*)

### **What is the waiver process?**

1. Member should complete the 2021 waiver form or submit other written request for waiver/reduction to local chapter.
2. Local Component will approve or deny.
3. State Component will approve or deny. (This applies only where a member is assigned both to a Local Component and to a separate State Component.)
4. Where the member is assigned both to a Local Component and a separate State Component, either Component may submit the waiver on behalf of the member. However the originating Component in that case must certify that it has consulted with the member's other assigned Component regarding the Membership Dues Adjustment/Waiver before submitting to the Institute for processing.
5. National Membership Strategy and Services department will forward the request to the Secretary of the Institute for final approval or denial (upon receipt of completed waiver form with the member's written request).
6. Member will receive a letter from the Institute informing him/her of the outcome of the request.

### **May a member qualify for consecutive adjustment/waiver requests?**

The Rules of the Board permit a waiver to be granted on an annual basis in up to three consecutive years. Any request for a waiver in the fourth consecutive year or beyond must be an exceptional circumstance and the appropriate form must be completed (2021 exceptional dues waiver adjustment form). Members requesting consecutive waivers must still meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Financial Hardship
- Unemployment/partial employment
- Medical Disability
- Sabbatical
- Family Leave
- Other exceptional circumstances (*A member must complete the 2021 Exceptional Circumstances Dues Adjustment Request Form under this category*)

**May a member who receives an adjustment/waiver enroll in the Dues Installment Program?**

Yes. Renewing members receiving an adjusted dues waiver will be eligible to enroll in the dues installment program after receiving an approval notification from the Secretary of the Institute. The member will then be able to enroll in the Dues Installment Program online, given they do so within the time constraints of the program. More information on the dues installment program can be found on [aia.org](http://aia.org) under member incentives.

**Does a member who receives an adjustment/waiver have to continue to pay for his/her subscription to *ARCHITECT Magazine*?**

No. Members are no longer required to pay their subscription fee for the National publication.

**What role does the Component play in considering a member's adjustment/waiver request?**

The Component has the initial responsibility in the waiver approval process. If the Component approves a waiver request, it consults with any other Component to which the member may be assigned and then forwards the request for review by the Secretary of the Institute.

**May a member request a partial payment plan in the waiver process?**

If a member is interested in pursuing this possibility, the member may enroll into the Dues Installment Program once the adjustment/waiver has been approved and they receive notification from the Secretary of the Institute. Members who wish to pay in installments outside of the program will be left inactive until the full amount is received.