

Background Information, Available Funding, and Purpose

The City of Sunnyside received American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funds which were designed to help bolster response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic impacts. The City of Sunnyside wishes to use a portion of these funds for a Utility Assistance Program. The program will assist customers with past due utility accounts from March 2020 through December 31, 2022*.

The Sunnyside City Council is allocating \$300,000 for use in 2021 and \$100,000 for use in 2022.

*Assistance funds cannot be used on NSF fees, standby fees, late fees, or shut off fees.

Who is Eligible for Utility Bill Assistance?

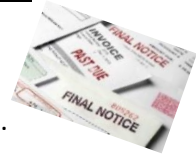
If the annual income of your household is under 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI), you have experienced financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and you are at-risk for a water shut-off, you may be eligible for utility bill assistance. Qualifying customers are eligible for assistance equal to the total account balance or up to \$3,000 for commercial/business and \$1,500 for residential.** You may apply for a one-time credit or monthly assistance of not more than \$250/month, not to exceed account balance.

**Payments will be made directly to the utility account.

What are the eligibility requirements to receive Utility Bill Assistance?

To be eligible, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- The household/business experienced hardship directly related to COVID-19.
- The household/business is unable to pay a portion of, or none of, their utility bill.
- The household/business has a City of Sunnyside address.
- The household/business does NOT have savings to meet their financial need.
- Household income is at or below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI) – see table below for qualifying income limits based on household size. Proof of income will be required (i.e., 2020/2021 tax return, check stubs, bank statements, etc.).



| | Number of Persons in Family | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Annual Household Income | \$39,550 | \$45,200 | \$50,850 | \$56,500 | \$61,050 | \$65,550 | \$70,100 | \$74,600 |

- The business income is at or below 80% of the prior year (2020/2021, 2021/2022) income. Proof of income will be required (i.e., 2020/2021 tax returns, bank statements, etc.).

How to Apply

All applicants who meet the eligibility requirements will have the opportunity to be selected to receive assistance.

Applications will be processed on a first-come, first eligible served basis until December 31, 2022, or until funds are exhausted, whichever occurs first.

For additional information, contact Utility Billing at 509-837-3782 or email at utilitybilling@sunnyside-wa.gov.

Applications are available online at www.sunnyside-wa.gov or at City Hall.