

RESOLUTION 2021 - 27

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF SUNNYSIDE, WASHINGTON,  
AUTHORIZING CITY UTILITY BILL ASSISTANCE USING  
FUNDS FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)**

**WHEREAS**, the City has received funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) that can be used to provide Household Assistance and Small Business Economic Assistance to help mitigate the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on City of Sunnyside utility customers; and

**WHEREASE**, the Utility Assistance Program is necessary to further the City's purposes of protecting public health, safety and welfare during the COVID-19 pandemic, preventing local economic collapse due to the loss of jobs and businesses within the City by offering utility billing credits to those customers who have been impacted by COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council authorizes the Interim City Manager or designee to approve related to COVID-19 relief from the ARPA funds up to the maximum program funding of \$300,000.00 for 2021 and \$100,000.00 for 2022, including the creation of the Utility Assistance Program is in the best interest of the residents of the City of Sunnyside and will promote the general health, safety and welfare.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUNNYSIDE, WASHINGTON**, as follows:

**SECTION 1.** That the City of Sunnyside hereby authorizes the Interim City Manager or designee to distribute utility credits to City of Sunnyside utility customers as described in Exhibit A, Utility Assistance Flyer.

**SECTION 2.** This Resolution shall be effective upon passage, approval and signatures hereon in accordance with law.

**PASSED** this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of August, 2021.

  
FRANCISCO GUERRERO, MAYOR

**ATTEST.**

  
JACQUELINE RENTERIA, CITY CLERK

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

  
KERR LAW GROUP, PLLC  
Attorneys for the City of Sunnyside

## COVID-related City of Sunnyside Utility Bill Assistance

### 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 September 30, 2021\*.

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.).



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

- The business income was at or below 80% of the prior year (2020/2021) 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](mailto:utilitybilling@sunnyside-wa.gov).

Applications are available online at [www.sunnyside-wa.gov](http://www.sunnyside-wa.gov) or at City Hall.