

Colonial Heights' CARES Utility Bill Relief Program

CDBG-CV, HUD Requirements

- **CDBG-CV funds should be used to prevent, prepare for and respond to coronavirus.**
 - *Residents who have suffered unemployment/ income loss due to Covid-19 may be eligible for a one-time payment of their utility bills.*
 - *The goal of this grant program is to pay the water utility bill in full.*
 - *Preventing the cutoff of water utilities during this time will ensure residents can maintain hygienic practices and stay at home as needed.*
- **Funds should still be prioritized for low-moderate income individuals.**
 - *Priority points will be given for residents in low-moderate income neighborhoods: Violet Bank-Flora Hill, Shepherd Stadium, Westover-Snead, Toll House, and Ellerslie/Dunlop neighborhoods.*
- **Public Service Activities are eligible for utility payments as long as it does not exceed three months (24 CFR part 570.207(b)(4)).**
 - *This grant will be used as a one-time payment towards a water utility bill.*
- **The 15% public services cap on funds is lifted for CDBG-CV funds.**
 - *100% of the funds will be used for public services.*

Who is eligible for a one-time utility payment?

- Colonial Heights Residents
- Residents who are past due on the billing cycles for April or May
- Unemployed residents who have experienced a loss of income due to COVID-19
- Current on utility bills as of March 1st, 2020
- Cannot have had more than two utility cut-offs (been on the cut-off list) in the past 5 billing cycles
- There are approximately 910 eligible households, based on past-due utility bill status.
- Additional documentation required:
 - Unemployment verification letter
 - Loss of benefits letter
 - Copy of identification showing Colonial Heights residency
 - Demonstration/Proof of lost revenue for independent consultants from March 1st to June 17th
 - Disability benefits letter, such as SSDI

How will the funds be distributed?

- 100% of the CDBG-CV funds will be used for the utility relief grant program
- Funds will be used only to pay for water bills in full.
- The maximum amount received per address is \$300.

How will residents know about the CH CARES relief program?

- Notifications will be made to:
 - Chesterfield-Colonial Heights Dept. of Social Services

- Posters at City Hall, Utility Billing and Planning Departments
- Notification on City website
- Notification on Facebook website
- 3.5x5" color postcard will be mailed to residents who are currently delinquent on their water utility bill (Approximately 910 households).
- Encourage City residents to apply for regular CDBG repair grants for water leaks and other home repairs.

When will the grant program start?

- The Colonial Heights CDBG Citizen Participation Plan requires a 30-day public comment period that ends on June 16th 2020.
- The Colonial Heights City Council will vote on the proposed use of CDBG-CV funds on June 16th, 2020.
- The application period will be from June 17th to July 17th, 2020.
- Applications will be reviewed from July 18th to July 31st, 2020.
- Applicants will be notified by August 3rd, 2020.

Selection Criteria

Category 1

- (+5 points) Job loss OR
- (+5 points) Loss of benefits due to COVID OR
- (+5 points) Independent Contractor, lost revenue

Category 2

- (+4 points) Violet Bank-Flora Hill resident OR
- (+4 points) Shepherd Stadium OR
- (+4 points) Westover-Snead OR
- (+4 points) Ellerslie/Dunlop OR
- (+4 points) Toll House resident

Category 3

- (+3 points) Household with disabilities

If there is a tie for points:

- Has the applicant been past due in the last 9 months/5 billing cycles? (-5 points)
- Household size (+1 per person in a household)
- Submission date after points are tallied to order applications

1 Poverty Status Is Determined—Estimate

American Community Survey

Population for whom poverty status is determined

Product:

2018: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables

Geographies:

Census Tract

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Data Notes



