

WATER AND SEWER CONNECTION PROGRAM

Policy

Program Year 2023-2024

The Water and Sewer Connection Program assists low and moderate-income individuals connect to the City water and/or sewer systems by providing financial assistance with the with the tap fees and/or related plumbing costs.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

All applicants must:

- Own the home and use it as the primary residence
- Live within the city limits of Gastonia
- Not owe any outstanding property taxes
- Meet income guidelines

2023 INCOME GUIDELINES

Median Income	One Person	Two Person	Three Person	Four Person	Five Person	Six Person	Seven Person	Eight Person
50%	\$34,900	\$39,900	\$44,900	\$49,850	\$53,850	\$57,850	\$61,850	\$65,850
80%	\$55,850	\$63,800	\$71,800	\$79,750	\$86,150	\$92,550	\$98,900	\$105,300

TERMS OF ASSISTANCE

- Household income must be 80% or less to be eligible for assistance
 - 50% or below income qualifies for a GRANT
 - 51% to 80% qualifies for a low-interest LOAN at 3%
- Repair assistance cannot exceed \$5,000.00
- The system in greatest need of repair (as determined by the housing inspector) will be addressed
- Housing and Community Engagement Department has the right to call loan notes due immediately if;
 - The applicant fails to make monthly payments
 - Applicant sells the property before the loan is paid in full

DISQUALIFYING EVENTS

Applicant(s) will receive a letter of ineligibility if any of the following apply:

- Does not meet the income guidelines as set by HUD
- Does not live within the city limits of Gastonia
- Does not own the property, is an heir or is part of a legally binding life estate
- Does not use the property as the primary residence
- Owes outstanding property taxes and has not set up payment arrangements
- The cost to bring the system into compliance exceeds the program's financial capability
- Previously received any program assistance within the last 10 years through the City of Gastonia
- Properties that have pending code-enforcement action which requires the repair of multiple systems/items
- Assets exceed \$20,000.00
- Does not have a satisfactory credit history (applies to applicant's in loan status only)

If client does not have a utility account with the City of Gastonia, you will need to go online to the City of Gastonia website and set up a new account. This is to pay for the System Development Fee either for water or sewer or both. These fees have to be paid upfront and prior to any work is done at the property. The system development fee cannot be made in installments nor can it be added to your bill monthly, it must be paid in full.

Note: Applications are provided to homeowners based upon preliminary qualifications. Program acceptance will be subject to a full application being received, and applicant meeting all such program requirements.

Revised 6/2023