

COMMUNITY & RESIDENT SERVICES

Proposed Ordinance Changes for Financial Programs



Community & Resident Services (CRS) operates/assists with several financial programs:

- Emergency Financial Assistance (EFA)
- Short Term Lodging Assistance (STLA)
- Replacement Housing Assistance Program (RHAP)
- Zoned Tenant Assistance Program (ZTAP)
- LexServ: Promissory Note Agreement
- Sewer, Landfill & Water Quality Management User Fee Assistance Program
- Sidewalk/CDBG Sidewalk Replacement
- Street Tree Removal
- Dollar Energy Fund
- Housing Repair Assistance Program



Programs per Ordinance

- Short-Term Lodging Assistance (STLA)
- Zoned Tenant Assistance Program (ZTAP)
- Sewer, Landfill & Water Quality Management User Fee Assistance Program

3



Why are we requesting these changes?

- Align program guidelines closer across the board
 - (i.e. 125% Federal Poverty Guidelines, 150% Federal Poverty Guidelines, 200% Federal Poverty Guidelines, 40% Area Median Income, 80% Area Median Income, Gross, Gross Minus Taxes, etc.) for staff and residents.
- Allow residents to qualify for most programs under the same guidelines.
- Expand access to underutilized resources (i.e. ZTAP).

4



Short-Term Lodging Assistance Program (STLA)

Assists low income tenants, displaced from rental housing due to conditions that render the dwelling temporarily unfit for human occupancy, with temporary lodging and/or housing expenses.

- Short-term lodging – hotel room or extended stay residential facility for 3-5 days
- Moving expenses (transportation or storage)
- 0% income households are eligible
- Code Enforcement – tenant must have a condemnation notice
- Tenant must initiate CRS application within 7 business days of notification to vacate

| CURRENT | PROPOSED |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 40% Area Median Income | 80% Area Median Income |
| Maximum aggregate benefit - \$800 | Maximum aggregate benefit - \$1000 |



Zoned Tenant Assistance Program (ZTAP)

Assists low income tenants, displaced from rental housing due to a local rezoning action, redevelopment or change in use of property, with expenses associated with relocation to a safe housing unit.

- Rezoning/redevelopment
- Maximum aggregate benefit is \$1000 per household
- Rental security deposit
- Rental assistance – 1st month
- Utility deposit and/or arrearages (\$500)
- Moving expenses for transportation/storage (\$250)
- 0% income households are eligible
- Tenant must initiate CRS application within 60 calendar days of notification to vacate

| CURRENT | PROPOSED |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 40% Area Median Income | 80% Area Median Income |



Zoned Tenant Assistance Program (ZTAP)

- \$205,093.37 – ZTAP Budget
- Proposing to eliminate and combine with Replacement Housing Assistance Program (RHAP)
 - Why
 - Assistance has not been provided for residents in over 5 years, with only 2 cases in the past 10 years.

This program has a \$200,000 fund balance that will be moved to the Emergency Financial Assistance Program (EFA) in FY2024 as a one-time reallocation.

7



Replacement Housing Assistance Program (RHAP)

Assists low income tenants, displaced (condemnation) from housing due to conditions that make it unfit for human occupancy, with expenses associated with relocation to a safe housing unit.

- Maximum aggregate benefit of \$1000 per household
- Moving expenses for transportation
- Rental security deposit
- Rental assistance – 1st month
- Utility deposit and/or arrearages (\$500)
- Fayette County residency
- Through Code Enforcement (must have a condemnation letter)
- 80% Area Median Income guidelines – based on gross income
- 0% income households are eligible

8



Sewer, Landfill & Water Quality Management User Fee Assistance Program

- Assist with a portion of the sewer, water quality management fee and landfill charges owed to LexServ in order to prevent interruption of service.
- Customers receive a monthly discount for 1 year. Must recertify yearly.



Discount Sewer Fee

\$160,000 - Budget

| CURRENT | PROPOSED |
|--|--|
| 30% discount – social security income | 50% discount |
| 30% discount – disability (SSDI) | 50% discount |
| 30% discount – residents 65 & over w/\$25,000 or less income | 50% discount |
| 50% discount – all others | 50% discount |
| 125% Federal Poverty Guidelines (gross income minus taxes) | 150% Federal Poverty Guidelines (gross only) – this will match the Promissory Note Agreement program through LexServ |



Discount Water Quality Management Fee

| CURRENT | PROPOSED |
|--|--|
| \$20,000 – Budget | \$30,000 - Budget |
| 30% discount – social security income | 50% discount |
| 30% discount – disability (SSDI) | 50% discount |
| 30% discount – residents 65 & over w/\$25,000 or less income | 50% discount |
| 50% discount – all others | 50% discount |
| 125% Federal Poverty Guidelines (gross income minus taxes) | 150% Federal Poverty Guidelines (gross only) - this will match the Promissory Note Agreement program through LexServ |



Discount Landfill Fee

| CURRENT | PROPOSED |
|--|--|
| \$20,000 – Budget | \$30,000 – Budget |
| 50% Discount – Everyone | No Change |
| 125% Federal Poverty Guidelines (gross income minus taxes) | 150% Federal Poverty Guidelines (gross only) - this will match the Promissory Note Agreement program through LexServ |



LexServ Proposal

This will only apply if 50% across the board is approved for the 3 components (sewer, landfill, water quality).

- If a resident qualifies, 50% discount of the entire bill (eliminate the need for CRS staff to enter information for 3 separate programs)
- Must re-certify yearly
- Income requirement for assistance (150% Federal Poverty Guideline – gross only)

13



Increased Exposure of CRS Programs in 2022

- New brochure with every program listed
- Increased Board participation
 - Voices of Hope
 - Homeless Prevention & Intervention
 - Lexington Community Land Trust
 - Black & Williams Advisory Board
 - Neighborhood Healers Project
- Increased presence at community events
 - Hispanic Health Fair
 - Georgetown Street Neighborhood Block Party
 - Family Day at The Nest
 - Domestic Violence Vigil
 - St. Martin Village Community Day @ Whitney Young Park
 - Overdose Awareness Day
 - Douglass Park Back to School Rally

14

**OVERALL BUDGET INCREASE FOR FY 2024 OF
*\$45,000**

*** TO BE REQUESTED IN MAYOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET**

- *Short Term Lodging Assistance (STLA) - \$25,000*
- *Water Quality Management Fee - \$10,000*
- *Landfill Fee - \$10,000*



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Questions?



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