

# COMMUNITY & RESIDENT SERVICES

*Proposed Ordinance Changes for Financial Programs*



**LEXINGTON**



## **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



## 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).



## 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

<b>CURRENT</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>
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 – 1<sup>st</sup> 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.**



## 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 – 1<sup>st</sup> 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





## **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

<b>CURRENT</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>
\$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)



## 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

# 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*



**LEXINGTON**

# Questions?

