

**CITY OF WEST RICHLAND
RESOLUTION NO. 61-21**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND,
WASHINGTON ESTABLISHING THE UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WITH
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS**

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act (H.R. 1319) (ARPA) was signed into law providing Federal funding relief for American workers, families, industries, and state and local governments ; and

WHEREAS, on May 10, 2021, the United State Department of Treasury released interim final guidance on allowed uses of funds and allocated \$350 billion for state, local, territorial, and tribal governments from the American Rescue Plan Act Fund; and

WHEREAS, in June 2021, the City received \$2,106,134 of its \$4,220,468 allocation of ARPA funds; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to allocate a portion of the ARPA funds to City of West Richland residents experiencing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 emergency and that need utility payment assistance;

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND,
WASHINGTON, DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1.

1. Eligibility - Assistance may be issued to each household for which:
 - a. The household has a City of West Richland residential utility account that has a delinquent balance accrued between April 2020 through December 31, 2022, or a household that has chosen to stay current with their utility bill, but has been adversely affected by COVID-19;
 - b. Utility account holder attests that, because of the loss of income and/or increase in expenses due to COVID-19, the household cannot pay the utilities due and have enough money remaining to pay for rent, food, medical and related expenses, health insurance premiums, childcare and job-related transportation expenses;
 - c. The household has paid utilities, to the extent that it can, considering the financial hardship(s) noted above;
 - d. The funds requested have not been used as a basis for reimbursement from other Federal and State grants.
2. Credit Maximum - Upon utility account holder attestation to eligibility requirements:
 - a. The household may receive a maximum of \$1,500 to apply to a delinquent account.

- b. A household that has been adversely impacted due to COVID-19, but has chosen to stay current with their utility bill, is eligible for \$150 credit to their utility account.
- 3. Each household is eligible to draw funds once during the grant period.

Section 2.

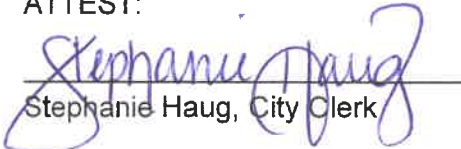
This Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon adoption.

PASSED by the City Council for the City of West Richland, Washington, this 7th day of December, 2021.



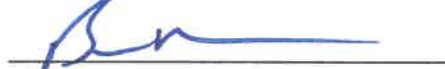
Brent Gerry, Mayor

ATTEST:



Stephanie Haug, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Bronson Brown, City Attorney



3100 Belmont Blvd Suite 100 West Richland, WA 99353 www.westrichland.org
 Finance Department (509) 967-3431 FAX (509) 967-5706 Email: utilities@westrichland.org

American Rescue Plan Act

Household Information and Eligibility Form

Instructions: Use this form to screen and document household eligibility. Applicant must be account holder.

Customer Information				
Name:			Date:	
Service Address:		Email:		
# of people in household:	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4-5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6-7	<input type="checkbox"/> 7+
Please answer <u>ALL</u> questions below:				
Any of the following eligibility criteria can be "self-certified/stated" by the household.				
1. Please SELECT one of the following options: <input type="checkbox"/> No income due to hardship caused by COVID-19 <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced income due to hardship caused by COVID-19 <input type="checkbox"/> Other – Please explain below:		2. Type of Assistance Requested: <input type="checkbox"/> Pay-off past due utility account balance: \$_____ (not to exceed \$1,500) <input type="checkbox"/> Receive credit for future utility bills (up to \$150)		

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Applicant must be the utility account holder with the City of West Richland. Each account is eligible to draw funds once during the grant period. Funding is distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis. Credits received via grant funds cannot be refunded to the utility account holder in the future. The City may request additional proof of financial hardship.

CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

The undersigned hereby certify and attest that:

- 1) Because of the loss of income and/or increase in expenses described above, the household cannot pay the utilities due and have enough money left to pay for rent, food, medical and related expenses, health insurance premiums, childcare, and job-related transportation expenses.
- 2) The non-payment of utilities due is caused by financial impact from COVID-19 as described above.
- 3) The household has paid utilities, to the extent that it can, considering the financial hardship(s) noted above.
- 4) The information provided in this form is a true and accurate statement of the financial hardship the household has experienced related to COVID-19.
- 5) The amount requested has not been used as a basis for reimbursement from other Federal and State grants.

SIGNATURES

If you sign this form, all of the above statements must be true.

This document is a formal application for utility debt relief through "American Rescue Plan Act" (ARPA). If it is determined during the course of any subsequent audit by the City of West Richland, or the United States Government, that the utility customer was not entitled to any ARPA funds that they received either in error or by false attestation, the customer will promptly reimburse the City for such payments upon request or have the amount added to their utility account balance.

I SWEAR UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON THAT THE FOREGOING IS TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF.

SIGNED AND ATTESTED AS TRUE, as of the date set forth below:

Printed Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

For Official Use Only:		
Signature of Approval:	Date:	Amount Awarded: