



## NEWS RELEASE

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**CONTACT:**

Miles Smith  
Public Information Officer  
512.398.3461 office  
512.644.9600 cell  
msmith@lockhart-tx.org

**City Council approves Emergency Utility Relief Grant program**

The Lockhart City Council on Tuesday, August 18 gave approval to a program that helps residents experiencing COVID-19-related financial hardships who were unable to pay their utility bills from March through June.

The funding source for the new Emergency Utility Relief Grant program is from the City of Lockhart's allotment of Coronavirus Relief Fund from the Texas Department of Emergency Management authorized under the CARES Act.

"The City's utility services are considered essential services to meet basic public health, sanitation, welfare and public safety needs of the city's residents," Mayor Lew White said. "We are pleased to be able to offer this program to help residents who have been hit hard financially due to the pandemic."

If a city residential customer meets the program eligibility requirements, the program will assist in paying that customer's past due City of Lockhart utility bill for the following months and cycles:

- March 2020 cycle 2 utility bill due April 10, 2020
- April 2020 cycle 1 utility bill due April 25, 2020
- April 2020 cycle 2 utility bill due May 10, 2020
- May 2020 cycle 1 utility bill due May 25, 2020
- May 2020 cycle 2 utility bill due June 10, 2020
- June 2020 cycle 1 utility bill due June 25, 2020
- June 2020 cycle 2 utility bill due July 10, 2020

Eligible utility items include:

- Services including electric, water, wastewater and solid waste

- Monthly service charges for utility services
- Late payment penalty
- Service disconnection fee

City utility customers must meet all requirements identified below to qualify for financial assistance through the program:

- Applicants must be experiencing a financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Applicants must be experiencing a financial hardship due to job loss or income reduction related to COVID-19.
- Applicants must be inside-City residential customers with active utility accounts.
- Applicants must be the primary individuals under whose name the utility account is registered and established.
- Applicant’s household income must be at or below the federal income thresholds for low income.

The following table shows federal annual income thresholds for the program based on household size:

	1 Person	2 Person	3 Person	4 Person	5 Person	6 Person	7 Person	8 Person
Low Income	\$54,700	\$62,500	\$70,300	\$78,100	\$84,350	\$90,600	\$96,850	\$103,100

For more information and to access an application, visit [www.lockhart-tx.org](http://www.lockhart-tx.org).