

CUSTOMER EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Talkin' Water

9-16-2021

## VIRTUAL EVENT GUIDELINES

- Sessions are recorded.
- A Question and Answer opportunity will be provided after the presentation.
- You can submit your questions by typing your questions in the thought bubble with a question mark inside.



- TVWD operates in an inclusive and discrimination-free manner to serve all customers.
- Staff will publish questions and comments and may exclude participants who disrupt events.





# **HOST**

Tom Hickmann, PE, Chief Executive Officer

### **Municipal Water**

- •Tualatin Valley Water District since August 1, 2019
- •City of Bend 14 years

### **Engineering Consultant**

- David Evans and Associates
- •MBK Engineers



# **PRESENTERS**



Justin Dyke
Outreach and Engagement Coordinator



Sharie Ashbrook Customer Care Specialist



Trisha Postma
Customer Service and Billing Lead



## **BILL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

TVWD.org/Help

TVWD recognizes that customers may experience financial hardships that limit their ability to pay a utility bill.

TVWD is returning to normal operations, including shutoffs and fees for customers who have not communicated and made arrangements to bring their bill to current status.

If you are struggling financially, you are not alone! We are here to help you.



## **ENHANCED CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE**

Available through October 1

#### **Customer Benefit**

\$350 max. credit to past due water balance

Payment plan for any remaining balance

#### **Limits of Use**

One time use, not eligible for future assistance for 12 months

**Program automatically ends October 1, 2021** 

Customer agrees to regular shutoff policy for non-payment or broken promise

Known leaks: do not qualify until proof of fix

### **Eligibility Requirements**

80% median income per household size

Or SSI, SNAP, TANF, WIC benefits

Single-family residential customer, receiving TVWD bill directly

Past due water balance

Must be a current district customer

**Determination of eligibility** 

**Self certification** 

**Third-party verification (CAO)** 



## **CUSTOMER EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**

**Available Starting October 2** 

#### **Customer Benefit**

#### Payment up to 28 CCF and fixed charge

- \$191.34 max. value as of Nov. 2020 rates
- Value to change with water rates

#### Payment plan for any remaining balance

#### **Limits of Use**

One use per 12-month period

**Customer has a stated emergency** 

For tracking purposes only

#### Program automatically suspends if funds deplete

Prorated monthly

### **Eligibility Requirements**

60% median income per household size

Single-family residential customer, receiving TVWD bill directly

Past due water balance

Must be a current district customer

#### **Determination of eligibility**

Third-party verification (CAO)



## **FLEXIBLE PAYMENT PLANS**

#### **Feasible Pay Plan:**

- Allows customers the flexibility of their installment payment. Payment arrangement can be up to 2-years.
- Customer's pay their current charges by the due date every other month.
- Make an agreed upon installment payment the month they do not have a bill.

#### **Example:**

- Due date: Current Water, Sewer, Surface Water Management Charges
- Bi-monthly amount: As low as the total arrearage divided by 12.

### **Equal Pay Plan:**

- Allows customers to pay the same amount monthly.
- We will average out the last 2-years of bills, add the arrearage, then divide by 24-monts to pay off.
- We will reassess once a year to make sure payment amount will pay the balance in full by end of 24-months

#### **Example:**

 A customer with an arrearage balance of \$1,000. Over the last 2-years (12 billing cycles) the bill average is \$300. Customer can pay \$200 every month until arrearage is paid.



## OTHER RESOURCES AVAILABLE

### Community Based Assistance Programs

# Community Action of Oregon (Washington County)

- CAO administers multiple aid programs
  - Oregon Emergency Rental Assistance Program (OERAP)
  - Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
  - Housing stability

- St. Vincent de Paul Washington County
- Providence Community Resource Desk
- Care To Share

- Oregon Emergency Rental Assistance
- Oregon Department of Human Services, by dialing 2-1-1 or 211.org
- Low Income Household Water Assistance Program



# **YOUR TURN! ANY QUESTIONS?**



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