**IMPORTANT MESSAGE: COVID-19 RATEPAYER RELIEF MEASURES**

This notice announces relief measures for residential ratepayers experiencing economic hardship

during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please review this message in its entirety. For more information

please go to our website at www.hardingnj.org or contact the tax collector.

**INSTALLMENT PLAN AVAILABILITY**

BE ADVISED that State law requires residential customers to be offered an installment plan for any

sewer arrearages accruing between March 9, 2020 and March 15, 2022. To maintain the installment

plan, a residential customer must make timely payments on all current charges. Sewer liens that were

sold before January 1, 2022 cannot be included in the installment plan.

**LATE FEES, CHARGES AND PENALTIES**

BE ADVISED that P.L. 2021, c. 317 prohibits local governments from charging residential

customers interest, fees, or charges for late payment of sewer charges accruing between March 9, 2020

and March 15, 2022 until after March 15, 2022 at which time interest and penalties may begin to accrue.

This prohibition does not apply to sewer liens that were sold before January 1, 2022. Late interest, fees

or charges may be enforced against arrearages accruing before March 9, 2020 and after March 15, 2022.

**BILL ASSISTANCE AND ARREARAGE FORGIVENESS PROGRAMS**

The application period for the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs’ Low Income Water

Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is now open. This federally funded program will provide financial

assistance to low-income households to reduce the balances on their residential water and sewer

bills. LIHWAP will provide benefits directly to water and sewer service providers on behalf of

residential customers. The assistance can be used, in order of priority, to:

• restore services where services have been terminated and pay reconnection fees and

other charges accrued due to a disconnection;

• avoid service disruption for those residential customers who are in danger of

disconnection (i.e., received shut off notices or have past due balances) and to help

them afford bill payment going forward; and

• support those household customers who are current in their bills but might be in

danger of falling behind in the near future.

Priority will also be given to families with elderly or disabled household members and/or with

children under the age of five, no matter which category they fall into.

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BILL ASSISTANCE AND ARREARAGE FORGIVENESS PROGRAMS (cont.)

To be eligible for LIHWAP assistance, applicants must be water/sewer bill holders who are

responsible for paying their water and sewer bills directly to the water/sewer provider. Also,

applicants’ total gross household income must be at or below 60% of the state median Income

($6,439 a month for a family of four). The LIHWAP frequently asked questions webpage, available

at https://njdca-housing.dynamics365portals.us/lihwapfaq has additional information about

maximum income limits and other items.

Participants in the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) are automatically

eligible for LIHWAP assistance so long as they are water/sewer bill holders.

People can apply online through the DCAid application portal at https://njdcahousing.dynamics365portals.us/en-US/dcaid-services/.

Those without computer or internet access can call 1-800-510-3102 to be directed to one of the

community action agencies to assist them with starting, completing, and submitting an application

online.