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## Utility Rate Relief Program Objective

The Mayor and City Council have recognized the needs of those citizens in Rapid City that are most in need of financial assistance. Through this program, the City of Rapid City is able to provide relief to some of its citizens while at the same time providing a clean, reliable and sustainable source of drinking water for everyone.



*S. Hwy 16 Water Tower*

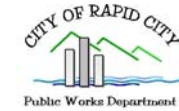


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**CITY OF RAPID CITY**

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*Public Works Department*

# Utility Rate Relief Program



*Pactola Reservoir*

# Utility Rate Relief Program

## INTRODUCTION

Residential water and sewer customers can apply for relief on monthly utility charges. Eligibility for this program is based upon criteria outlined by the State of South Dakota Department of Revenue and Regulation Property Tax Division for the purpose of the Freeze on Assessments of Dwellings of Disabled and Senior Citizens Program. The Utility Rate Relief Program is administered through the City Public Works Department. In order to qualify for the program, an applicant must meet **ALL** of the following criteria:

## PROGRAM DETAILS

1. Must either be 65 years of age or older, or disabled as defined by the Social Security Act.
2. Income (Applicants Federal adjusted gross income including social security payments) guidelines:
  - a. Single income household:  
Less than \$22,573.68
  - b. Multiple income household (must include income of all household members): \$28,217.10.
3. Applicant may own, rent, lease, or have a life estate in the property for which the utility relief is applied for.

If the applicant owns or has a life estate in the property it must have a fair market value of less than \$154,950.

If the applicant rents or leases the property the rent or lease payment must be less than \$900/month for a single person or less than \$1,200/month for a multiple income household.

4. Applicant must physically reside at the property.
5. The utility bill must be in the applicant's name. If the residence has multiple units, but is served by only one service line or meter, the residents of the property are not eligible for the program. If each unit has its own meter, the residents may be eligible for the program if they meet the other criteria.
6. If an applicant qualifies for the program their water and sewer rates will be frozen at the 2008 rates for a period of one year or until the yearly renewal date of April 1st.
7. **The applicant must reapply every year, unless they have been accepted into the State tax freeze program whereby they will be automatically enrolled in the Utility Rate Relief Program.**
8. If the applicant is pre-qualified under the State of South Dakota Department of Revenue and Regulation Property Tax Division's Freeze on Assessments Program, the applicant qualifies for the City Utility Rate Relief Program and does not need to complete an application with the City.
9. If the applicant was qualified for the State's Freeze on Assessments Program and loses eligibility, the applicant MUST apply with the City for consideration into the utility rate relief program or will automatically be removed from the program.

10. If the fair market value of the applicant's property or the rent paid by them exceeds the threshold amounts, they can still qualify for the program if they were qualified in the immediately preceding year and remain domiciled in the same residence.
11. Annual renewal applications must be received by the City Public Works Department by April 1 of each year.
12. If the renewal date of April 1 is not met by the applicant, the higher water rate will apply until an application is received and approved.
13. New applications may be received any time throughout the year and, if approved, are valid from the date the application was approved until the next renewal date of April 1. No retroactive rate credits will be given.
14. The Utility Rate Relief Program is valid only through the end of 2013 when the existing rate plan period ends. It is anticipated that at that time, the frozen 2008 utility rates will be adjusted to the 2013 rates for the next rate plan period.



## For Questions & Application Drop Off

Please Contact:  
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