



Where Life is Sweet

City of Hermiston Reduced Utility Rate Application

Applicant Information

Full Name: _____ Date: _____
Last First M.I.

Address: _____
Street Address Apartment/Unit #

_____ *City State ZIP Code*

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Income

Previous calendar year household income: \$ _____
 Married, Single or Widowed in the previous calendar year: _____
 Number of dependents in the home (as listed on most recent tax return): _____
Provide a copy of your 2023 completed tax return including all attachments.

Eligibility is based on the following 2024 Poverty Level Guidelines established by the US Department of Health and Human Services <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>

Total Family Size	Annual Income
1	\$15,060
2	\$20,440
3	\$25,820
4	\$31,200
5	\$36,580
6	\$41,960
7	\$47,720
8	\$52,720

For families with more than 8 persons add \$5,380 for each additional person.

Statement

I swear or affirm that the information provided on this application is true and correct, that due to my income during the last calendar year, I was not required to file a Federal Income Tax Return, and did not file one, and the documentation provided represents all forms of income which my household received during the last calendar year and that I am applying for a reduced rate benefit from the City of Hermiston. I understand that my account must be in good/current status before the benefit will be calculated. I hereby request a reduced rate of half the current base rate for water and sewer. Signature: _____ Date: _____

For Office Use Only

Date Received: _____ Account Current: Yes No

Approved Denied By: _____ Date: _____

Comments: _____

- **What is the Reduced Utility Rate Program?**

This program is intended for customers who are considered long-term low-income. This program is not intended for short-term assistance due to things like temporary job-loss.

- **What is the reduction?**

This program allows eligible customers to have their Base Fee, which is the minimum fee paid regardless of how much water is used, reduced to 50% of the current fee. Customers accepted into the program are still required to pay the usage-portion at 100% of the current rates.

- **Application & Renewal Process:**
 - This benefit expires at the end of every calendar year. Customers must re-apply every year to continue receiving this benefit.

 - Applicants must provide a copy of their completed Federal Income Tax Return from the previous calendar year.

 - Applications which are received by the City of Hermiston prior to April 15, and are subsequently approved, will receive a credit dating back to January 1 of the eligibility year. However, customers must pay their full bill until eligibility is determined.

 - Applications which are received by the City of Hermiston after April 15, and are subsequently approved, will only receive the benefit for the remainder of the current calendar year.

- **What if I do not file a Federal Income Tax Return?**

Customers who are not required to file a Federal Income Tax Return must provide alternative documentation including:

 - Bank Statements for the previous calendar year

- **Federal Income Tax Filing Requirements**

Below are a handful of common tax filing arrangements. These will be used to determine if you were required to file taxes the previous year. You are required to file Federal Income taxes if your income is above any of the thresholds shown for your filing status:

- Single filing status:
 - \$13,850 if under age 65
 - \$14,700 if age 65 or older
 -
- Married filing jointly:
 - \$27,700 if both spouses under age 65
 - \$27,300 if one spouse under age 65 and one age 65 or older
 - \$28,700 if both spouses age 65 or older
 -
- Married filing separately — \$5 for all ages
-
- Head of household:
 - \$19,400 if under age 65
 - \$21,150 if age 65 or older
 -
- Qualifying widow(er) with dependent child:
 - \$25,900 if under age 65
 - \$27,300 if age 65 or older