

CITY OF GARDINER Sewer Discount Program Ordinance

The criteria as set forth by the Gardiner City Council for sewer customers to participate in the City of Gardiner Sewer Discount program are as follows:

1. Applicants must be a resident of the City of Gardiner and the primary name on a domestic sewer account according to the records of the City of Gardiner. Applicants must also be: (1) age 65 or older, or (2) a Veteran, or (3) Disabled (e.g., paraplegics, blind persons), and the applicant's annual household income cannot exceed 70% of the median household income based on the most recent U.S. Census data. New applicants must provide proof of age at the time of application, such as a valid driver's license or copy of a birth certificate, as well as proof of household income. Applicants whose information is on file from previous years will not be required to provide proof of age or income again, unless requested by the City. The City reserves the right to require any other information it deems necessary to determine program eligibility.

First-time applications will be accepted at any time, and the discount will be applied to the next bill following application approval. It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide documentation of all household income. New applicants must submit proof of income at the time of application. Lack of proof may cause denial of program eligibility. Sensitive information may be redacted prior to submitting information.

2. All program participants enrolled in the program must renew each year in order to receive the upcoming year's discount. Renewal applications are due on or before October 15th each year to allow staff adequate time to update customer records and are subject to approval. Renewal applicants are not required to submit proof of income although they are required to attest to the fact that they meet the income criteria. The City reserves the right to request verification at its discretion.
3. There will be no retroactive adjustments if applications are not received by the due date.
4. The discount program will apply only to the quarterly minimum/base sewer use charge.
5. The discount will amount to a \$25 reduction of domestic sewer charges for Veterans or Disabled Persons of any age, a \$25 reduction for any participants between the ages of 65 and 75 years, and a \$45 reduction for any participants that are 76 years of age or older.

6. Widows and widowers who had previously met the eligibility requirements for the discount, but due to the death of their spouse no longer meet the age requirement, shall be grandfathered to continue participation in the program under the following conditions: (1) the widow or widower is at least 65 years or age; and (2) the widow or widower continues to satisfy all of the other requirements of the policy as contained herein.
7. Applicants who had previously met the eligibility household income requirements for the discount, shall be grandfathered to continue participation in the program if they continue to satisfy all of the other requirements of the policy as contained herein.
8. The sewer discount is subject to available funding as budgeted by the Gardiner City Council. The City may deny application requests if funds have been depleted for a given fiscal year. The City may choose to pro-rate future benefits for all applicants in order to stay within the annual budget allocation.