

2020

# COVID-19 RESPONSE PROGRAMS



## **FREEPORT TOWNSHIP** *Cares*

Patrick Sellers

Freeport Township

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# Freeport Township Emergency Assistance Services Programs

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Freeport Township will open up specific segments of emergency assistance services until the end of its fiscal year, if necessary.

Each program will have a specific time period for which services will be rendered, along with a maximum funding amount expended through that specified time period. The purpose of the Period process is to ensure that Township has enough funding to assist in various areas of potential financial detriment to our Township residents.

These services are available to Township residents directly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. **For example:** *If your water services were disconnected before the COVID-19 pandemic and the Shelter-in-Place mandates, then you are not eligible for Period I services.*

This requirement stands for all Periods of the program, any utility service disconnected before March 21, 2020 is not eligible Township Emergency Services. The only exception is Employment Services, which will be available for any person starting new employment or is attempting to retain his or her employment.

## **The Periods**

<u>Period Name</u>	<u>Time in use</u>	<u>Amount expended</u>
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<b>Period I – Water services</b>	2 months	Max- \$20,000
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- ❖ The maximum amount that any eligible recipient can receive for water assistance is \$200.00.

<b>Period II - Electric/ Gas</b>	2 months	Max- \$20,000
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- ❖ The maximum amount that any eligible recipient can receive for Electricity or Gas assistance is \$150.00.
- ❖ In Period II an eligible applicant will only be able to choose assistance with either gas or electric, they will not be eligible for both.
- ❖ Please note: In the effects that LIHEAP’s extension continues, then Period II will become a support of LIHEAP for example: (LIHEAP Extension, Period II becomes a “Good Faith” Payment Assistance Program and for individuals who may not meet LIHEAP’s eligibility requirements.)

### **Period III Employment Services (Continuous)**

The importance of employment mandates that, during each Period, Employment Services remain constantly available to Township residents. These services include:

#### Transportation

- Gas cards, Pretzel City Transit Tickets etc.

#### Identification

- Birth Certificates, State Identification Cards, Social Security Card Replacements

In our efforts to help ease some of the financial strains on some of our hardest hit during the COVID-19 pandemic, the first 2 weeks of each Period will be reserved for individuals who are deemed as “Non-Essential workers” and individuals who can prove a loss of income directly related to COVID-19.

### **TOTAL COST ENTIRE PROGRAM**

Period I - Water Services	\$20,000
Period II – Electric & Gas	\$15,000
Period III – Employment Services	\$3,000

### **Extended Assistance Grants**

SENIOR RESOURCE CENTER ( <i>Senior Home Maint</i> )	\$10,000
VACSC ( <i>Veteran’s Extended Assistance</i> )	\$10,000
Amity Daycare ( <i>Childcare Assistance</i> )	\$5,000
YMCA Daycare ( <i>Childcare Assistance</i> )	\$5,000
Open Bible Daycare ( <i>Childcare Assistance</i> )	\$5,000
<b><u>Total Program and Grant Expenditure</u></b>	<b><u>\$73,000</u></b>

COVID-19 will change the way we all live, work and entertain. But it is imperative that the changes in Freeport Township’s programming services are accomplished with compassion, fluidity and careful consideration of taxpayer dollars.

# **Senior Home Maintenance Assistance Grant Program**

In our efforts to further assist our home owning Senior population of Freeport, IL, the FREEPORT TOWNSHIP in collaboration with the SENIOR RESOURCE CENTER has established the **SENIOR HOME MAINTENANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**.

This program has been designed to assist Senior residents of Freeport Township by focusing on three, potentially problematic areas of home maintenance for seniors.

- Landscaping
- Gutter Cleaning
- Leaf and Snow removal
- Fans/Air Conditioners

Successful implementation of this program, could result in less senior related accidents while performing such tasks, ensuring that senior properties are well maintained avoiding nuisance citations, and last but not least, help to lift the burdens of such tasks off of our senior residents.

## **PROGRAM SYNOPSIS:**

The Freeport Township will provide a financial grant to the Senior Resource Center of up to \$10,000, to cover the costs of the above services for our seniors who qualify. Eligibility requirements of this program will mirror the same eligibility requirements needed to attain Senior Resource Services.

The Senior Resource Center, will retain the sole discretion of picking the service providers for the aforementioned services. Within the contents of the grant agreement, the Freeport Township will request the Senior Resource Center to actively seek out the best prices for services rendered. This will in turn maximize the usage of grant funding thus enabling the program to assist more seniors.

The **SENIOR HOME MAINTENANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM** is a pilot program, which will follow the fiscal budgeting schedule of the Freeport Township (i.e. May 1, to April 30) subject to delay due to COVID-19 pandemic.

## **EXPECTATIONS OF BOTH PARTIES**

### **SENIOR RESOURCE CENTER:**

1. Create a verified accounting process in order to closely monitor the expenditures of the program.
2. Find qualified professional service providers to conduct the services offered through the program.
3. Find the most cost-effective means of providing the program services. (Taking advantage of Senior Discounts as often as possible)
4. Keeping data on program participants
  - a. Contact information
  - b. Service dates
  - c. Services rendered
  - d. Service provider
  - e. Cost of service
5. Provide monthly expenditure report

A monthly expenditure report will be provided to the Town Board every second Monday of the month at the Township regular meeting. On occasion a representative from the Senior Resource Center may be requested to be present at the meeting, but mostly the report would be emailed directly to the Township Supervisor and Township CFO to be shared with the Town Board.

### **FREEPORT TOWNSHIP:**

1. Provide funding for the program
2. Be a referral source for the program
3. Keep data of individuals referred to the program by Freeport Township
4. Keep record of program data as provided by the Senior Resource Center
5. Keep an open line of communication with the Senior Resource Center in order to fine tune the program

The **SENIOR HOME MAINTENANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM** is a pilot program, and once the funds from the program have exhausted, the program will be over until the following year if continued. If at the end of the fiscal year there are funds remaining, and both parties mutually agree to continue the program, then the remaining funds will be rolled over into the next funding cycle. If either party agrees to terminate the program and there are funds remaining, then the remaining funds would be immediately return back to the Freeport Township.

**\*\*\* This program not for landlords or rental properties. \*\*\***

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# **Freeport Township Cares Program**

## **The Problem**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we here at the Freeport Township are working hard to ensure the safety and overall well-being of our residents and staff.

The financial strains that COVID-19 presents to many of our citizens have forced many to choose between meeting monthly expenses and having the essentials that they need. The Freeport Township Cares program is designed to assist Township residents with following essentials.

## **These essentials include:**

- Toilet paper
- Laundry detergent
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Paper towels
- Lysol Cleaner
- Pine sol
- Bodywash
- Lotion
- Hand soap
- Dishwashing soap
- Bleach
- Garbage Bags
- Deodorant

## **How will we do it?**

Items are purchased in bulk and stored at the Freeport Township which will serve as an intake as well as a distribution point. Items will come to the Township for intake and then get disseminated to other distribution points in the City. The addition of various distribution points will help to alleviate the potential bottlenecks in service which could transpire with an inundation of people requesting this service.

Items such as toilet paper produced at Malcolm Eaton Enterprises will be purchased in order to recirculate dollars back into our local economy. We will also seek local and regional vendors to supply some of the aforementioned if available.

## **Program Logistics**

There will be three or more points of distribution.

1. The Freeport Township – will serve as an intake and distribution point
2. The Senior resource center to serve our honorable senior population.
3. The Veteran’s Assistance Commission to serve the citizens who have served us.
4. Help-at-Home to serve our citizens who require assistance at home.

## **Demographics Served**

1. The Freeport Township will service the General Population. *(Excluding Seniors, Veterans and Homebound citizens)*
2. The Senior Resource Center will service Seniors. *(Excluding General Population, Veterans and Homebound citizens)*
3. Help-at-Home will serve our citizens who require home assistance. *(Excluding, General Population and Veterans, some Seniors may be assisted.)*

**EXAMPLE:** *(If a Senior comes to Freeport Township in need of this service, we would refer that individual to the Senior Resource Center.)*

Breaking potential recipients down into groups for service will help keep confusion to a minimum as well as help to keep this program running smoothly.



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