

## **City of Haltom City**

### **Wastewater Treatment Assistance for Low-Income Haltom City Residents**

#### **Project Description:**

Haltom City shall assist up to five families per year with upgrading and improving their on-property sewer connections. Haltom City shall establish a pool of funds to which Haltom City residents may apply to cover the cost of sewer connection repair. SEP Funds will be used to pay a contractor for repair and replacement of sewer connections. In order to participate in this Project, Haltom City residents applying for assistance must provide proof that they meet low-income requirements. Low-income households fall at or below the 80 percent median income level for households in the county where they live.

Haltom City's community consists of many older, low-income residents with homes built in the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s, or earlier. Over time, the sewer infrastructures have become degraded. Residents are responsible for repairs to the sewer lines on their properties but may be financially unable to make them. If the sewer lines are not repaired, sewage may enter the local environment, affecting the household and neighborhood as well as local waterways.

At its own cost, Haltom City's staff shall advertise the Project and accept applications from residents to determine eligibility for assistance based on income. All advertisements must include the language required in General Condition No. 18. Haltom City shall accept bids to choose a qualified contractor to perform sewer system repairs for those who apply and qualify for assistance.

Households in Haltom City will complete standard income documentation to determine their eligibility for this low-income program. Haltom City shall review applications for low-income eligibility for assistance at Haltom City's expense. After a candidate household's income is verified, Haltom City shall hire a contractor to repair the sewer line. Haltom City shall use SEP Funds to pay the contractor for labor and equipment.

Haltom City has no prior obligation to perform this project. Homeowners shall not be charged for any costs associated to this Project. Haltom City shall ensure that all repairs are performed in compliance with local, state, and federal rules. Haltom City shall ensure that only properly licensed contractors are utilized for all work under this Project.

#### **Eligible Sites:**

Eligible sites will be limited to those where the household qualifies as low-income as defined by TEX. GOV'T CODE § 2306.004(15).

#### **Environmental Benefit:**

This Project will repair faulty sewer connections which, if left unrepaired, would release raw sewage into the environment. When this occurs, ground surface, drinking water sources, and human wildlife health are impacted. These releases can run off in to storm water systems, which flow into the Trinity River through creeks and drainage basins. The Trinity River Watershed is the source of five reservoirs that provide water to the majority of residents in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. In addition to potential spread of disease, sewage in the environment contributes excess nutrients, metals, and toxic pollutants that contaminate water quality, cause algae blooms, and kill fish and other organisms in aquatic habitats.

This Project has the potential to not only improve water quality but will also improve the public health for a sector of the population that is least able to afford health care. Contact with sewage may cause diseases that range in severity from mild gastroenteritis to life-threatening ailments such as cholera, dysentery, infectious hepatitis, and severe gastroenteritis. People can be exposed through sewage in drinking water sources, direct contact from sewage in lawns or streets, and through inhalation and skin absorption.

**Eligible Areas and Counties:**

This project may receive contributions from the following:

Anderson, Archer, Chambers, Clay, Collin, Cooke, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Fannin, Freestone, Grayson, Grimes, Hardin, Henderson, Hill, Hood, Houston, Hunt, Jack, Johnson, Kaufman, Leon, Liberty, Limestone, Madison, Montague, Navarro, Parker, Polk, San Jacinto, Tarrant, Trinity, Van Zandt, Walker, Wise, and Young Counties

**Minimum Contribution Amount:**

\$100