

Oakes Water Fund Assistance Program

About the Program

The Water Fund Assistance Program is administered by the City of Oakes and is funded by Oakes Enhancement Incorporated (OEI). The purpose of the program is to assist low income homeowners with their water bills.

Qualified applicants will receive a reduction of 65% (rounded to the nearest dollar) applied to their monthly water base fee only.

The application form may be picked up from the Oakes City Auditor. Applications must be turned into City Hall by February 1st. Benefits are for that calendar year.

Eligibility

1. You must reside on and have an interest in the property for which the credit is claimed.
2. Your income, plus the income of your spouse and any dependents, may not exceed \$22,000 for the calendar year preceding the application. You must consider income from all sources, which includes, but is not limited to, social security benefits, pensions, salaries, Experience Works, alimony, unemployment benefits, dividends, interest, net gains from the sale of property, net rental income and net profit from any business, including ranching and farming. Capital losses, ordinary losses, or losses from self-employment are not allowed in the calculation.
3. Payments not considered income include gifts, inheritances, life insurance proceeds, social security lump sum death payments, workforce safety and insurance payments, insurance policy proceeds for illness, injury, or casualty losses to property, child support, federal fuel assistance, renter's refund payments, food stamps, veteran's disability payments, payment for foster care of a qualifying child or adult or for difficult care, Foster Grandparents Program, Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Senior Companion Program, Vista Program, and the Medicare drug card credit.
4. Medical expenses actually paid during the year are deductible from income if not compensated for by insurance or otherwise. The Medicare drug credit need not be subtracted from deductible medical expenses.
5. Your assets may not exceed \$500,000, including the value of any assets gifted or otherwise divested within the last three years, excluding the first unencumbered \$100,000 of market value of your home.
6. No person shall qualify to receive the credit if the home is rented while the owner is temporarily absent and returns to the same residence.
7. In the event of the applicant's death, all benefits terminate at the end of the following billing month.

(see Minutes January 2007)