



**Franklin County Department of Sanitary Engineering
N. Hague Avenue Sanitary Sewer Connection
Frequently Asked Questions**

I am a renter, can I receive financial assistance?

No, the property to be improved must be owner-occupied.

I am a landlord, can I receive financial assistance?

No, the property to be improved must be owner-occupied

I am purchasing my house via land contract, can I receive financial assistance?

Maybe, the land contract must be recorded with the Franklin County Recorder's office and will be reviewed by the Department of Sanitary Engineering's legal counsel. It is recommended that applicants for whom this situation pertains contact Amick Municipal Consulting Group prior to submitting an Application.

I live in the City of Columbus, can I receive financial assistance?

No, the property to be improved must be served by the sanitary sewer collections system infrastructure constructed by the Franklin County Department of Sanitary Engineering in the N. Hague Avenue area of unincorporated Franklin Township.

I live somewhere other than the N. Hague Avenue area, can I receive financial assistance?

No, the property to be improved must be served by the sanitary sewer collections system infrastructure constructed by the Franklin County Department of Sanitary Engineering in the N. Hague Avenue area of unincorporated Franklin Township.

I live in then. Hague Avenue area, but outside of the area where sanitary sewer collections system infrastructure is soon-to-be constructed, can I receive financial assistance?

This will be determined on a case-by-case basis; you are encouraged to contact Amick Municipal Consulting Group prior to submitting an Application.

How do you determine if a property is owner-occupied?

In order to be considered owner-occupied, the property to be improved must receive the owner-occupied real estate tax credit, as delineated on the website of the Franklin County Auditor.

How do you determine if a property is current on real estate taxes?

Information in this regard is provided via the websites of the Franklin County Auditor and the Franklin County Treasurer.



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My household is currently past due on real estate taxes, but has established a “payment plan” approved by the Office of the Franklin County Treasurer, can my household still apply?

Yes, if your household is currently in compliance with a “payment plan,” it will be assumed that your household is current on real estate taxes. Payment plans must be approved by the Office of the Franklin County Treasurer; submit documentation of compliance with said payment plan when submitting your Application.

What if I filed for bankruptcy within the previous twelve months?

You would not be eligible to receive the financial assistance, but you are encouraged to consult with Amick Municipal Consulting Group to determine the exact dates, as such dates may affect your eligibility for the Financial Assistance Program.

My household does not have homeowner’s insurance, can I still receive the financial assistance?

No, a requirement of the Financial Assistance Program is that the improved household has current homeowner’s insurance.

Where can I find the Declaration Page for my homeowner’s insurance?

If you do not have a current copy of the Declaration Page, it is recommended that you contact your insurance agent to receive a copy.

Are there any deductions for extraordinary household expenses?

Deductions are generally limited to extraordinary medical-related expenses incurred within the year under consideration. In order for these expenses to be considered extraordinary, such expense must exceed three percent (3%) of the gross household income. If you believe your household has extraordinary expenses that should be taken into consideration when evaluating your application, you are encouraged to contact Amick Municipal Consulting Group prior to submitting an Application.

Can you determine the amount of income and/or public assistance from a bank statement?

No, payroll stubs and award letters are required to determine the pre-tax value of such income and/or public assistance.

Why do you need bank statements?

Bank statements are used to determine if any household income is received, which has not been identified by other means. If your household has such income, you will be asked to clarify said income and to provide additional information in reference to the sources of said income.



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What if I forgot to send a supporting document?

You will receive a letter indicating that such a document is required and will be provided fifteen calendar days to rectify.

If I am denied financial assistance, may I appeal?

If you are denied financial assistance, for whatever reason, you will be given fifteen calendar days to appeal this decision. Appeals will be reviewed directly by the Director of the Franklin County Department of Sanitary Engineering and are final and non-appealable.

What if I plan to sell the house soon?

If you plan to sell the property to be improved soon, you will need to take into consideration whether there is a benefit to participating in the Financial Assistance Program. Amick Municipal Consulting Group may be able to assist you in determining this.

I believe my household will be over the income limit; should I still apply?

If you believe the gross annual income of your household is over the income limit, you are still encouraged to apply, especially if such income is only slightly over the above referenced income limit. While the income limits are “hard numbers,” in specific situations, some extreme household expenses (medical-related) may be used to reduce the allowable income.

I am not comfortable sending personal financial information to the County, is there any other way to qualify?

No, the only way to qualify for the financial assistance is to submit the required documentation. Such information is kept in the strictest of confidence and is stored in a locked filing room on the premises of the Franklin County Department of Sanitary Engineering.

Can I e-mail the Financial Assistance Application and supporting documents?

No, all documents must be hand delivered or mailed to the Franklin County Department of Sanitary Engineering. Documents received via e-mail will be rejected and the sender of said e-mail will be instructed to deliver such documents to the Franklin County Department of Sanitary Engineering.

I have heard that the costs of construction for households receiving financial assistance may be greater than the costs if the homeowner was undertaking the connection project.

This may be true; the Franklin County Department of Sanitary Engineering is using federal funds (Water Pollution Control Loan Funds) to capitalize the loans. Because federal funds are in use, certain requirements must be adhered to, including, but not limited to, federal prevailing wage requirements and certain bonding requirements. These requirements may add expenses to the project, which may not otherwise be incurred if the homeowner was paying for the connection themselves.



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I have heard that the costs to connect can be “added to our real estate taxes.” How do I go about doing this?

The costs associated with the construction of a sanitary sewer lateral cannot be “added to your real estate taxes.”

Are there any other sources of financial assistance available?

At this time, the Franklin County Department of Sanitary Engineering and Amick Municipal Consulting Group are unaware of any other financial assistance programs available to allow for the construction of a sanitary sewer lateral. Some companies may be offering financing of such expenses, whereby, if a household is pursuing this route, it will be incumbent upon said household to determine the benefit of such financing.

Will an extension be granted?

At this time, no extensions of the deadline are anticipated.

What if I have additional questions about the financial assistance program?

Amick Municipal Consulting Group has been contracted by the Franklin County Department of Sanitary Engineering to administer the application process. You can call (614.282.2959) or e-mail (benjamin@amickconsulting.com) Amick Municipal Consulting Group with any additional questions you may have.

What if I do not qualify for the financial assistance?

If your household does not qualify for the financial assistance program, you will be required to connect to the sanitary sewer collections system at your own expense. You will be responsible for selecting and contracting with a qualified contractor to undertake the necessary work.

I have a friend/family member that can construct the sanitary sewer collections system lateral. If I am approved for financial assistance, can my friend/family member complete the work and be paid by the County?

No. Because federal funds are being used to capitalize the financial assistance program, the Franklin County Department of Sanitary Engineering is required to solicit quotes or bids for the work. Additional information in this regard will be provided to awarded households at a later date.