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**Relief has arrived for Residents, Small Business Owners facing  
Past due Water and Wastewater Utility Bills  
Act now, funds available for a limited time only**

(Hampton Roads, Va. Dec. 18, 2020) – For local residents and small business owners facing past due utility bills due to COVID-19, help has arrived at [HRUtilityRelief.com](http://HRUtilityRelief.com). Through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Hampton Roads water and wastewater utilities are providing assistance through the Commonwealth of Virginia Municipal Utility Relief Program. The local utilities will provide assistance to residents and businesses with COVID-related past due balances until Jan. 27, 2021 or until the funding runs out. Application deadlines may vary, so residents should act quickly.

“We are urging qualifying Hampton Roads residents and small business owners to apply for this funding today, not tomorrow,” said Edward G. Henifin, general manager of Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD). “The process is quick and easy, but the funds are only available for a limited time.”

People with overdue direct charges occurring between March 1 - Dec. 30, 2020 for water and wastewater utility bills are eligible for assistance. To qualify, residents must self-certify they have experienced COVID-related issues that have caused economic hardship such as: job layoffs; job loss due to employment closings; reduction in work hours; staying home to care for children due to daycare and school closings; or lost child or spousal support. Relief also covers those who have been unable to work or missed work due to contracting COVID-19; unable to find work due to COVID-19; or unable to participate in their previous employment due to a high risk of severe illness.

Depending on their city or county, applicants can verbally apply by phone, or they can submit a short, user-friendly online application. To further streamline the process, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) has compiled application information specific to each participating municipality and HRSD at [HRUtilityRelief.com](http://HRUtilityRelief.com).

“The application process is simple and requires little time and documentation,” said Whitney Katchmark, a principal water resources engineer with the HRPDC. “We want residents to take advantage of this relief program now because once the funds are gone, they’re gone.”

**About the HRPDC:** The Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) is a regional organization established to encourage and facilitate cooperation among local, state and federal governments and agencies to address, on a regional basis, problems or issues that transcend jurisdictional boundaries. Comprised of local elected officials and administration officials, the organization serves the 1.7 million residents and the 17 jurisdictions of the Hampton Roads region regarding topics such as, Transportation, Economics, Emergency Management, Housing, Planning and Water Resources.