

HENNIKERHELPS



NEED HELP DURING THESE DIFFICULT TIMES? WE ARE HERE

What is HennikerHELPS

- The COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic is an unprecedented health crisis that has disrupted our local, national and worldwide economy. This disruption is creating significant financial hardships and potentially lasting economic impacts that affect Henniker residents, businesses and nonprofits. To assist in overcoming the financial and emotional challenges many are experiencing now and, in the weeks, and months ahead, a number of programs and services are already in place or being implemented by the Town of Henniker. These measures are being coordinated with federal, state and private efforts, and provide economic support and financial relief to all residents, businesses and nonprofits affected by the COVID-19 crisis and in need of assistance.
- Henniker HELPS (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) is a comprehensive and continually updated list of programs, services and assistance available to the community during these difficult times.

Property Tax Relief

Extended Property Tax Payment Plans

- All taxpayers with demonstrated financial hardship are eligible to establish pay plans for tax bills to be completed over an extended period.. This would have to be a written agreement which is why we suggest a demonstrated financial hardship. The agreement could include the schedule of payments and a reduced interest rate. (RSA 80:80 VI) I would propose we allow taxpayers if eligible to make 5 payments each of 20%. Payable on July 1st, August 1st, September 1st, October 1st, and November 1st. After completing the 5 payments the interests would be abated from 8% to 4%. If any payments are missed the regular bill would become due and interest would remain as set by the state.

Low- and Moderate-Income Homeowners

- Homeowners with income less than \$20,000 per year (\$40,000 married or head of household) are eligible to apply for a rebate on their taxes. Through this program, the State of New Hampshire's Department of Revenue Administration allows residents of low to moderate income to apply for a reduction to the state portion of the education property tax, which is provided as a property tax rebate. For more information, or to apply, visit <https://www.revenue.nh.gov/forms/low-moderate.htm>. The filing period is May 1 to June 30.

Existing Exemptions and Credits

- All homeowners meeting certain criteria are eligible to receive partial exemptions and/or credits on their tax bills. Exemptions and credits are available for the elderly, blind, deaf, disabled and all veterans. For more information, contact the Tax Assessment Office at 428-3221 ext. 2 or <https://www.henniker.org/general/page/tax-exemptions>

Housing and Food Assistance

Housing Assistance

- All residents in Henniker at immediate risk of losing housing, including those requiring help with rent and/or mortgage payments, are eligible to apply for public assistance. To find out what assistance is available, contact the Henniker Welfare Department at 428-3221 ext. 7, by email at caseworker@Henniker.org

Food and Household Commodities

- All residents in Henniker in need of food or other household essentials and otherwise financially unable to adequately sustain themselves will be eligible to apply for access vouchers and/or local food bank supplies which may include referrals to private charitable organizations. To find out what assistance is available, contact the Henniker Welfare Department at 428-3221 ext. 7.
- Henniker public schools provide free meals to all students. Meals will be delivered weekdays to your home address, regardless of whether they are qualified for free or reduced meals, can participate. For more information, visit <https://www.hennikercommunityschool.net/>
- The University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension's Food Access Map shows where in Henniker free or low-cost food is offered, volunteers and donations are accepted. The map can be found at <https://extension.unh.edu/resource/new-hampshire-food-access-map>.
- The Henniker Food Pantry distributes food to those in need living in Henniker. To get more information you can email hennikerfoodpantry@outlook.com

Business Assistance

- Businesses seeking assistance are encouraged to contact the Office of the Town Administrator at 428-3221 ext. 5
- Additional information about relief from the effects of COVID-19 on local businesses can be found at the State of New Hampshire's COVID-19 web page at <https://www.nh.gov/covid19/>, the CDC's COVID-19 page for businesses and employers at <https://go.usa.gov/xdeVN>, and the state's Department of Business and Economic Affairs page at <https://www.nheconomy.com/covid19>.
- The State of New Hampshire offers several services for employees who have been laid off. New Hampshire Employment Security has a list of available services at www.nhes.nh.gov. Individuals will need to file for unemployment each week of temporary unemployment and this can and should be done online, or by calling 603-271-7700.
- Most business tenants are eligible for financial relief through the Federal CARES Act. Business tenants should immediately contact their local lenders to access funds for expenses such as lease payments at www.SBA.gov/paycheckprotection/find.

Sewer Utilities

Extended Payment Plans

- All sewer customers with demonstrated financial hardship are eligible to establish payment plans for sewer bills. I would recommend residents be allowed to make 5 payments each of 20%. Payable on July 1st, August 1st, September 1st, October 1st, and November 1st. After completing the 5 payments the interests would be abated from 8% to 4%. If any payments are missed the regular bill would become due and interest would remain revert back to 8%.