



LETTER TO THE COMMISSION

LTC No: 25-209

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission
FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*
DATE: October 23, 2025
SUBJECT: Launch of the Fort Lauderdale Municipal Services Affordability (MSA) Program

The purpose of this Letter to the Commission (LTC) is to announce the launch of the City of Fort Lauderdale's Municipal Services Affordability (MSA) Program. This new, critical initiative was approved and funded as part of the City of Fort Lauderdale Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Budget and represents a major step forward in supporting our residents. The MSA Program is designed to provide direct financial assistance to financially burdened households to help pay for their water, sewer, and sanitation services. The program's core mission is to enhance housing stability, ensure residents have uninterrupted access to essential municipal services, and ultimately strengthen the fabric of Fort Lauderdale's neighborhoods.

The MSA Program is supported by a \$175,000 allocation in the FY 2026 Budget, sourced through a two (2)-pronged funding approach. The administrative costs to manage the program, totaling \$25,000, are funded by the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocation and cover the cost of application intake and eligibility verification. The programmatic funding, totaling \$150,000, is provided by the General Fund and serves as the direct funding source for utility assistance payments.

Eligibility for the MSA Program is based on three (3) main criteria, established to maintain continuity and standardization with other related income-driven and need-based programs. An applicant may be eligible if they are:

1. A Fort Lauderdale resident;
2. Responsible for paying the municipal service bill for a property within Fort Lauderdale city limits; and
3. Residing in a household with a total household income that does not exceed 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI) at the time of application, based on family size, as determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on an annual basis.

Currently, the HUD maximum income that is 80% of Fort Lauderdale's AMI for a household of four (4) is \$92,000. If an application is approved, financial assistance is paid directly to the utility billing account, thus ensuring the continuity or re-establishment of essential services. An eligible household can receive up to \$1,000 in total assistance within a rolling twelve (12)-month period. Based on available funding, the Program could service up to 150 eligible households this year.

Applications will be processed by the Housing and Community Development (HCD) Division of the Community Services Department. Those wanting to learn about the program or apply for assistance may access information by contacting the HCD Division at (954) 828-4527 or by visiting ftlcity.info/utilities.

For additional information please contact Porshia Garcia, Community Services Director, at (954) 828-5249 or PGarcia@fortlauderdale.gov.

c: D'Wayne M. Spence, Interim City Attorney
David R. Soloman, City Clerk
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor
City Manager's Office
Department Directors