

# Gainesville.

## Citizen centered

## People empowered

### **NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY**

#### **CITY OF GAINESVILLE**

#### **ConnectFree Program**

The City of Gainesville (City) is seeking eligible applicants to participate in the ConnectFree Program. The purpose of the ConnectFree Program is to provide financial assistance for the cost of extension and connection to the City's water and wastewater systems to eligible properties located within the Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) service area. Priority will be given to low-income households\* and/or properties located in low-income areas, AND properties with qualified public health, safety and environmental issues, as established by the City.

*\*Low-income households are defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and adopted by the City for use in the ConnectFree Program. All applications will be considered on a first-ready, first-served basis. Other program criteria may apply, as determined by the City.*

#### **ConnectFree Applicant Workshop**

**On Thursday, August 30, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. (Local Time), the City will host an applicant workshop to provide an overview of the ConnectFree Program application process. The workshop will be held at the Thomas Center, Building A, Long Gallery, 302 NE 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Gainesville, Florida.**

#### **The ConnectFree Program Funds Eligible Projects as outlined below:**

**1) Owner-Occupied or Rental Residential Properties:**

Eligible costs include line extensions and connection charges to extend, construct, or connect to the City's water, sewer, or reclaimed water systems. Additionally, low-income households\* may qualify to receive additional funding to assist with any necessary on-site plumbing modifications.

**2) Affordable Single-Family Residential Properties Developed by Nonprofit Housing Organizations:**

Eligible costs include only connection charges to connect to the City's water, sewer, or reclaimed water systems for affordable housing projects that serve low-income households\*.

**3) Facilities Owned and Operated by Nonprofit Organizations or Government Entities to Benefit Special Needs Populations:**

Eligible costs include line extensions, connection charges and on-site plumbing modifications to extend, construct, or connect to the City's water, sewer, or reclaimed water systems. Special needs populations include, but are not limited to, the following: elderly persons; disabled persons; homeless persons; veterans; persons with chronic illnesses; at-risk youth; survivors of domestic violence; and persons with addictions.

Applications for residential properties and nonprofit organizations may be obtained by contacting the Housing & Community Development (HCD) Division at telephone: (352) 334-5026, email: [COGHousing@cityofgainesville.org](mailto:COGHousing@cityofgainesville.org) or by visiting the Thomas Center, Building "B", 306 NE 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Room 245, Gainesville, Florida.

**Applications will be available Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (Local Time), except City observed holidays. Applications will be accepted only by hand-delivery to the HCD Division office at the Thomas Center, Building "B", 306 NE 6th Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Room 245, Gainesville, Florida. The City WILL NOT accept applications submitted by mail or FAX.**

Applications will be accepted for the ConnectFree Program until funding is depleted and/or the application cycle is closed, as determined by the City. Once ConnectFree Programs funds have been depleted, then the City, at its discretion, may establish a waiting list for the ConnectFree Program. The City reserves the right to reject any and all applications. For additional information, please contact John Wachtel, Neighborhood Planning Coordinator at (352) 393-8565.

**4) Affordable Rental Housing Projects:**

The ConnectFree Program provides financial assistance for the development and/or rehabilitation of affordable rental housing projects, including but not limited to, projects such as, Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Program, State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) Program and other similar programs. To be eligible for financial assistance through the ConnectFree Program, affordable housing projects must meet certain program criteria such as, providing rental housing units to low-income households\*; and demonstrating financial capacity to develop and manage the rental housing projects. Other eligibility criteria may apply, as determined by the City.

The City will accept applications for Affordable Rental Housing Projects beginning **Monday, August 27, 2018 through Friday, September 7, 2018. Applications must be submitted by Friday, September 7, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. (Local Time). Late applications will not be accepted.** Applications will be accepted **only** by hand-delivery to the City's HCD Division Office in the Thomas Center, Building B, 306 NE 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Room 245, Gainesville, Florida **or** by email in the form of a full color PDF to [wachteljs@cityofgainesville.org](mailto:wachteljs@cityofgainesville.org). **The City WILL NOT accept applications submitted by mail or FAX.**

**All signatures within an application packet must be in blue ink;** all attachments must be titled and labeled. **The City reserves the right to reject any and all applications.** Application forms are available from the City's website at <http://www.cityofgainesville.org/HousingCommunityDevelopment.aspx>. If you have any questions, please contact John Wachtel at (352) 393-8565, or by email at [wachteljs@cityofgainesville.org](mailto:wachteljs@cityofgainesville.org).

**Applicants applying for rental housing project funding are required to attend the following two meetings: 1) City's State Housing Initiatives Partnership Affordable Housing Committee on September 11, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. (Local Time); and 2) Gainesville City Commission Meeting on October 18, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. (Local Time). Meeting dates and times are subject to change.**

*The City of Gainesville is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity/Drug Free Workplace Employer. The City of Gainesville is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in all City programs, services and activities, and will provide reasonable accommodations upon request. To request accommodations for non-English speaking persons, individuals with disabilities, and individuals with hearing impairments, please contact the City of Gainesville Office of Equal Opportunity at (352) 334-5051 (voice) or (352) 334-2069 TDD; or Neighborhood Planning Coordinator John Wachtel, at (352) 393-8565; TTY users please call 711.*

## **FAIR HOUSING/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/DISABILITY ACCESS JURISDICTIONS**

