

City of Wapato

SUBJECT: Independent Income Survey – *First Request Letter*

April 16, 2015

Dear City of Wapato Residents,

Please find the enclosed survey regarding your Household Gross Annual Income for **2014**. We are requesting this information from residents within the City of Wapato. Wapato is seeking funding opportunities from State and Federal agencies in pursuing applications for wastewater treatment plant improvements and a sewage lift station upgrade. Your participation in this survey is necessary to support the application.

In accordance with Washington State income survey guidelines, this survey is being conducted by an independent third party organization, Evergreen Rural Water of Washington (ERWoW). The information you provide will only be used by ERWoW to calculate the percentage of the population qualifying as low-to-moderate income (LMI) and to determine median household income (MHI). All information obtained will be kept confidential by ERWoW.

It is very important that all of the surveys are completed and returned in a timely manner to be eligible for this year's application cycle.

We would appreciate it if you could complete and return your survey as soon as possible. Please mail back to ERWoW in the enclosed postage paid envelope before Friday May 15, 2015.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

Tracey Hunter
Evergreen Rural Water of WA
360-462-9287
PO Box 2300
Shelton, WA 98584

Income Survey

The City of Wapato has contracted with Evergreen Rural Water of Washington (ERWoW) to conduct an income survey. The purpose of the income survey is to determine the median household income of the residents of the City of Wapato. The results of the income survey will help the City obtain federal and state grants and low-interest loans to fund the City's infrastructure projects.

If you receive the income survey questionnaire from ERWoW, please complete the [Income Survey Form](#) and mail it out before the deadline (May 15, 2015). Thank you for your support.

Frequently asked questions and answer.

Q1: Why doesn't the City determine median household income using the Census data?

A2: The median household income of Wapato published in the Census data is \$33,977 per year. The Census data may not accurately reflect the average household income of the residents in Wapato.

Q2: Who is ERWoW?

A2: ERWoW is a non-profit organization established to provide training and technical assistance to water and sewer systems throughout the state. In accordance with Washington State income survey guidelines, this survey should be conducted by an independent third party organization. ERWoW is a highly qualified organization to conduct income surveys.

Q3: How will ERWoW handle the private information?

A3: The information you provide will only be used by ERWoW to calculate the percentage of the population qualifying as low-to-moderate income (LMI) and to determine median household income (MHI). All information obtained will be kept confidential by ERWoW.

Q4: Will all residents living in the City receive the questionnaire?

A4: The income questionnaire will be mailed to all households served by Wapato water and sewer utilities, which includes out-of-city residents in Mamachat and Apas Goudy subdivisions.

Q5: How does the income survey benefit the residents and rate payers?

A5: If the City receives federal and/or state grants, it will help reduce the rate payers' financial burden. The largest project in the City is the wastewater treatment plant upgrade project. The project at a cost of over \$10 million has caused sewer rate increase. The Mayor and his staff are working diligently to apply grants to avoid or minimize future rate increase.

Q6: Has the City of Wapato received any grant in the past?

A6: The City of Wapato has been successful in receiving grants from government agencies in the last year. These grants include \$309,000 from Yakima County SIED Board for N. Wasco/Sitcum Ave improvements, \$450,000 from the State Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) for Trader Street Improvements, \$402,850 from WSDOT for 9th Street sidewalk improvements, and \$26,500 for Department of Ecology for North Wapato Sewage Lift Station improvements. These grants are important to ease the City's financial hardship. The City's wastewater treatment plant project includes \$2.5 million grant and \$7.6 million loan from USDA.

Income Survey
Median Household Income (MHI)
Low to Moderate Income (LMI)

This survey for City of Wapato is being conducted to determine median household income (MHI) and low to moderate income (LMI) for City of Wapato community members. Information will be used as part of an eligibility determination for State and Federal funding assistance for utility improvements. It is important that the answers be as accurate as possible. ERWoW will collect and tabulate the data. This summary information will be used to calculate the middle income value of the community (median household income) by a third party technical assistance provider (ERWoW). **Neither the System staff nor the Owner will have access to the individual responses or income figures.**

It is very important that all of the surveys be completed and returned as soon as possible in order to apply for future funding. Please return your survey in the pre-addressed stamped envelope that was provided **no later than Friday May 15, 2015.**

If you would like to discuss the survey process with the survey coordinator directly, please contact Tracey Hunter at 360-462-9287 or thunter@erwow.org

(Sampling # Official Use Only)

Income Survey Questionnaire

(Evaluation Official Use Only)

- 1. How many people live in this household?** _____

(The number of people in the household should equal the number of people who lived in the residence for at least six months of the year)

- 2. What was the household's total income during 2014?** _____

Total household income is all taxable and nontaxable income earned by all members of the household for the latest tax year, 2014. Income includes (but is not limited to) wages, business, retirement, supplemental security, public assistance, disability, unemployment and investment income, VA payments, alimony and so forth. Income received by children under the age of 15 for work such as babysitting, paper routes or lawn mowing does not need to be included.