

Freeport Sewer District

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For Immediate Release

Feb. 17, 2026

Freeport Sewer District Asks Residents to Participate in Income Survey

Responses critical to requalifying for federal infrastructure funding

Freeport, ME — The Freeport Sewer District has launched a confidential household income survey to requalify for federal infrastructure funding following changes in the town's median household income reflected in the 2020 U.S. Census. The survey will determine eligibility for grants and low-interest loans to support needed upgrades and rehabilitation of aging wastewater facilities while reducing the financial burden on ratepayers.

The District has planned critical improvements to its treatment plant driven by aging infrastructure, evolving regulatory requirements, and priority of protecting local surface waters. These upgrades will ensure the system maintains the efficient, high-quality wastewater treatment the Freeport community depends on.

Three key components of the upgrade are:

1. rehabbing and modernizing the three treatment units;
2. expanding storage capacity for solids removed in the treatment process; and
3. replacing the current chlorine-based disinfection process with a chemical-free ultra-violet (UV) process.

The District, its engineers at Woodard & Curran, and RCAP Solutions are working with USDA Rural Development to identify funding solutions. The household income survey will help determine whether the project qualifies for federal financial assistance, which is based on the median household income of the District's service area.

All residential users connected to the sewer system are being asked to participate. Survey responses will be used solely to evaluate federal funding eligibility **and will remain strictly confidential**. A strong response rate is essential to enable the District to requalify for federal USDA funding in the form of grants and low-interest loans, helping ensure the upgrades remain affordable for the community.

Household income surveys will be mailed in the coming weeks. Residents are encouraged to complete and return the survey by March 6 using the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope.

The survey is being conducted by RCAP Solutions, the northeast affiliate of the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (www.rcapsolutions.org). Any questions can be addressed to David Tortora at 207-730-3261.