

54-7-13.6 Low-income assistance program.

- (1) As used in this section, "eligible customer" means an electrical corporation or a gas corporation customer:
 - (a) that earns no more than:
 - (i) 125% of the federal poverty level; or
 - (ii) another percentage of the federal poverty level as determined by the commission by order; and
 - (b) whose eligibility is certified by the Utah Department of Workforce Services.
- (2) A customer's income eligibility for the program described in this section shall be renewed annually.
- (3) An eligible customer may not receive assistance at more than one residential location at any one time.
- (4) Notwithstanding Section 54-3-8, the commission may approve a low-income assistance program to provide bill payment assistance to low-income residential customers of:
 - (a) an electrical corporation with more than 50,000 customers; or
 - (b) a gas corporation with more than 50,000 customers.
- (5)
 - (a)
 - (i) Subject to Subsection (5)(a)(ii), low-income assistance program funding from each rate class may be in an amount determined by the commission.
 - (ii) Low-income assistance program funding described in Subsection (5)(a)(i) may not exceed 0.5% of the rate class's retail revenues.
 - (b)
 - (i) Low-income assistance program funding for bill payment assistance shall be provided through a surcharge on the monthly bill of each Utah retail customer of the electrical corporation or gas corporation providing the program.
 - (ii) The surcharge described in Subsection (5)(b)(i) may not be collected from customers currently participating in the low-income assistance program.
 - (c)
 - (i) Subject to Subsection (5)(c)(ii), the monthly surcharge described in Subsection (5)(b)(i) shall be calculated as an equal percentage of revenues from all rate schedules.
 - (ii) The monthly surcharge described in Subsection (5)(b)(i) may not exceed \$50 per month for any customer, adjusted periodically as the commission determines appropriate for inflation.
- (6)
 - (a) An eligible customer shall receive a billing credit on the monthly electric or gas bill for the customer's residence.
 - (b) The amount of the billing credit described in Subsection (6)(a) shall be determined by the commission based on:
 - (i) the projected funding of the low-income assistance program;
 - (ii) the projected customer participation in the low-income assistance program; and
 - (iii) other factors that the commission determines relevant.
 - (c) The monthly billing credit and the monthly surcharge shall be adjusted concurrently with the final order in a general rate increase or decrease case under Section 54-7-12 for the electrical corporation or gas corporation providing the program or as determined by the commission.

Amended by Chapter 212, 2012 General Session