

**2019 - 2020 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent**

**Approved**

Tab	Action	Option	Version
40	1	B	1

**Budget Action Title:** Requests that SPU analyze the Utility Discount Program as part of its Affordability and Accountability Strategic Plan

Ongoing: No

Primary Sponsor: Herbold, Lisa

Councilmembers: González; Mosqueda

Staff Analyst: Brian Goodnight

**Budget Committee Vote:**

Date	Result	SB	TM	LG	BH	LH	RJ	DJ	MO	KS
11/15/2018	Pass 8- 1-Absent	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

**Statement of Legislative Intent:**

In November 2017, Council adopted the 2018-2023 Strategic Business Plan Update for Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) via Resolution 31760. In that resolution, Council requested that SPU prepare an Affordability and Accountability Strategic Plan (Plan) focused on managing future rate increases and corporate performance. The resolution calls for the Plan to be submitted to the Council no later than June 30, 2019.

Council requests that SPU work with Seattle City Light to incorporate an analysis of the Utility Discount Program (UDP) into the Plan, including the UDP's eligibility criteria and the concept of a tiered discount system. Some of the questions that should be addressed in the Plan include:

1. What would the financial impact be, for each line of business, of modifying the eligibility criteria to be 70 percent of the City of Seattle median income, rather than 70 percent of the Washington State median income?
2. How many additional customers would qualify for the UDP under the revised eligibility criteria?
3. What percentage rate increases would be required for each line of business under the revised eligibility criteria?
4. What are the benefits and drawbacks of shifting the UDP to a tiered discount system?
5. For non-related individuals sharing a household, what would the financial impact be of using the individual incomes as qualifiers for the UDP, rather than the combined income of all household residents? What are other potential benefits or drawbacks of amending the eligibility criteria in this way?

This UDP analysis should be delivered to the Council and the Central Staff Director as part of the Affordability and Accountability Strategic Plan by June 30, 2019.

**Responsible Council Committee(s):** Civil Rights, Utilities, Economic Development, and Arts Committee

**Date Due to Council:** June 30, 2019