

ENERGY COMMITTEE

Emergency Low Income Assistance

Wednesday August 12, 2015



PURPOSE

Proposing legislation that will align income eligibility criteria for the Emergency Low Income Assistance Program with other City utility assistance programs, such as UDP.

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

- Established in 1985
- Fund through City Light rates
- Available to customers in imminent danger of being disconnected (i.e., have a shut-off notice in hand)
- In 2014
 - 822 participants
 - \$121,000 in benefits
 - Average benefit of \$147 per participant

PROGRAM BASICS

- Account balance must be greater than \$350
- Customer must complete program application
- Assistance is available once in a 12 month period
- Income: 125% of the federal poverty level
- Ask that customers pay 25% of delinquent balance
- Maximum benefit is \$200
- Payment arrangement is made on the remaining balance
- Work to coordinate with other assistance programs

PROPOSAL

- Change income eligibility from 125% of poverty to 70% State Median Income
- Removes requirement to access LIHEAP funds prior to applying for ELIA
- Estimate at least 205 additional participants, increasing cost by approx. \$30,000
- Provides ability to serve more customers
- Results in disconnection of fewer customers

ELIGIBILITY COMPARISON

Maximum Annual Income		
Household Size	125% Poverty	70% State Median Income
1	14,592	30,840
2	19,668	40,320
3	24,744	49,812
4	29,808	59,292
5	34,884	68,784
6	39,960	78,276
7	45,036	80,052
8	50,112	81,828



CITY LIGHT

OUR VISION

To set the standard—to deliver the best customer service experience of any utility in the nation.

OUR MISSION

Seattle City Light is dedicated to exceeding our customers' expectations in producing and delivering environmentally responsible, safe, low-cost and reliable power.

OUR VALUES

Excellence, Accountability, Trust and Stewardship.

