

2026 STATEMENT OF LEGISLATIVE INTENT

V2

SPU-012S-A

Request that SPU report on rate impacts of expanding eligibility and participation in utility discounts and assistance programs of SPU and SCL

SPONSORS

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CENTRAL STAFF SUMMARY

This Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI) requests that Seattle Public Utilities (SPU), in cooperation with Seattle City Light (SCL) and the Human Services Department (HSD), evaluate the impacts on utility rates of maintaining existing utility assistance programs and expanding the eligibility for the Utility Discount Program (UDP) to people making 70 percent or 80 percent of area median income at a lower discount. Additionally, SPU's study should describe progress to date and any budgetary or policy steps necessary to:

- 1) accomplish long-sought system improvements to the UDP to increase participation rates;
- 2) decrease hurdles faced by seniors accessing the program, among other things;
- 3) ensure people are pre-qualified for UDP if they are enrolled in other City and county affordability programs, such as Fresh Bucks, Multi-Family Tax Exemption housing, and King County property tax exemptions.

Responsible Council Committee(s): Parks, Public Utilities & Technology

DUE DATE: February 14, 2026