



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL
CENTRAL STAFF

Utility Discount Program (UDP) Phased Eligibility Increase Ordinance

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GOVERNANCE AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE

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Background

- UDP Eligibility: household incomes must be equal to or less than 70% of the State Median Income (SMI)
- UDP provides eligible households:
 - 60% discount on Seattle City Light (SCL) bills
 - 50% discount on Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) bills
- For enrolled customers that do not directly receive an SPU bill, they receive a credit on their SCL bills
- As of December 2025, about 39,000 customers enrolled in UDP

Background (cont'd)

- In Fall 2025, CM Strauss sponsored Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI) SPU-012S-A
- SLI requested departments to evaluate the rate impacts of expanding UDP eligibility
- Departments provided a written SLI response in May, and presented to the Committee on June 11

Council Bill 121222 Summary

1. Modifies UDP eligibility threshold from 70% SMI to 60% Area Median Income (AMI)
2. States Council's intent to consider legislation in 2027 to extend UDP benefits to additional households:
 - 70% AMI in 2028
 - 80% AMI in 2029
3. Effective April 1, 2027

Amendment 1

1. Changes effective date to January 1, 2027
2. Revises dates for future eligibility increases in 2028 and 2029 from April to January
3. Adds a new section requesting the departments to publish an annual report on UDP participation rates and department efforts to increase program participation
 - Reports should be published by April 1 each year, beginning in 2027 and ending in 2031

Questions?