

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
 Workshop on Providing Assistance to Low-Income Customers of Energy Utilities  
 Sept. 6, 2005

Exhibit No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 (CME- )

**Comparison of Bill Assistance Programs**

	Type of Assistance	How Assistance Amount is Determined	Annual Budget	Funded by...	Eligibility	Program implementation costs*	Limitations / conditions	Number of Participants, annually	Average Assistance Amount
<b>LIHEAP – Energy Assistance Program</b>	Grant payment applied to customer account	Grants in the range of 50-90% of annual heat costs, depending on household income, size, energy costs, housing type	\$33.7 million	Block grant from Federal Government	125% FPL	24% of total budget (CTED = 3%, CAA = 21%)	Grant payments subject to max of \$750 and min of \$25 per household, per year.	72,000	\$350
<b>Avista</b>	Grant payment applied to customer account	3 types of grants: <u>Regular</u> follows LIHEAP formula, <u>Emergency</u> is allotted on case-by-case basis, e.g. imminent disconnection, and <u>Senior Outreach</u> is a \$200 grant allotted on case-by-case basis.	Electric - \$1.8 million (0.64% of rev), Gas - \$1.2 million (0.76% of rev)	All ratepayers (excl. gas transportation) thru volumetric surcharge in both gas and electric rates. (E.g., elec. res pays \$0.37/month, gas res pays \$0.49/month)	<u>Regular</u> = same as LIHEAP <u>Emergency</u> = case by case basis <u>Senior</u> = 60+ years and below 200% FPL	CAA - 15% of total budget	Recipients of emergency grant must attend energy education seminar; cap of \$300/year for emergency assistance; new income guidelines for non-qualifying seniors.	4858 electric (2.6% of elec residential cust)  3734 gas (2.9% of gas residential cust)	\$334
<b>Pacific Power</b>	Discounted rate	Discount to upper block rate, Nov thru April. 3 tiers of discount, based on income level.	\$550,000 (0.26% of revenue)	All ratepayers thru monthly meter charge: Res - \$0.23, Com - \$0.46, Ind - \$75	125% FPL	25% of total budget (Company = 2%; CAA = 23%)	Participants must apply annually; currently piloting energy education workshop for participants	2618 (2.7% of residential cust)	\$187
<b>PSE</b>	Grant payment applied to customer account	Uses grant formula for LIHEAP	Electric - \$6 million (0.41% of rev), Gas - \$2.9 million (0.41% of rev)	All ratepayers thru volumetric surcharge in both gas and electric. (E.g., elec. res pays \$0.41/month, gas res pays \$0.24/month.)	<50% of area median income, not to exceed 150% of FPL	24% of total budget (Company = 3%, CAA = 21%)	Household cap of \$750/year; household receiving LIHEAP is not eligible for PSE funds; households receive energy education	13,500 electric (1.5% of elec residential cust.)  6200 gas (1.1% of gas residential cust.)	\$344

\*All programs are implemented/administered by local Community Action Agencies. The CAA costs include both administration and program support.

Abbreviations:

- CAA - Community Action Agencies, non-profits certified by Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development
- FPL - Federal Poverty Level, developed annually by the Department of Health and Human Services
- LIHEAP - Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program