

UTC Electric and Natural Gas Low-income Assistance Workshop
Docket UE-140632

Thursday, May 29, 2014, 1:30 PM
WA Utilities and Transportation Commission, Room 206
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive SW, Olympia, WA

Agenda

I. Welcoming Remarks and Introductions

II. Program goals

What goals should guide implementation of low-income assistance programs? How should multiple goals be prioritized? Are there gaps in the data needed to track progress toward these goals?

- Minimizing disconnections;
- Lowering low-income customers' energy burden to that of average residential customers;
- Maintaining low-income customers' on-time payment performance;
- Reducing arrearages;
- Ensuring access to all eligible customers;
- Other.

III. Program design roundtable discussion

Which of the following program elements best support the goals identified above, and how?

- Grant-based program aligned with the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP);
- Monthly grant benefit;
- Discounted per kWh rate;
 - General discount rate
 - Discount of first block
 - Different discounts for different blocks
- Credit of the basic charge;
- Other.

IV. Fair access

Where programs are unable to provide assistance to all eligible low-income customers, how should utilities or program administrators ensure fair access to assistance?

- Limit repeat participation;
- Ensure customers receiving bill assistance are in line for low-income conservation;
- Establish a waiting list from the next year;
- Multi-year certification;
- Priority for certain customers (fixed income, disabilities, customers with children, etc.).

V. Connection with low-income weatherization programs

What steps can or should be taken to increase proportion of low-income assistance recipients receiving weatherization services?