

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION STAFF  
RESPONSE TO DATA REQUEST

DATE PREPARED: August 1, 2017  
DOCKETS: UE-170033/UG-170034  
REQUESTER: Public Counsel

WITNESS: Jing Liu  
RESPONDER: Jing Liu  
TELEPHONE: (360) 664-1292

**REQUEST NO. 10:**

**Re: Direct Testimony of Staff Witness Jing Liu (Exh. JL-1T) and PSE Help (low-income rate assistance)**

Please refer to the Direct Testimony of Jing Liu, Exh. JL-1CT at 71:12-14, which states: "Therefore, the total funding available each year going forward should be \$21.2 million, plus any supplemental increase associated with energy rate changes each year, and any carry-over funding balance from previous program years."

Please specify whether total baseline funding available for PSE Help, before annual or Commission-ordered increases take effect, would be \$21.2 million, as indicated above, or \$22.9 million as indicated in Liu, Exh. JL-1CT at 68:13. Please explain.

**RESPONSE:**

The following table explains Staff's understanding of the PSE HELP funding history and the prospective October 1, 2017 funding level. It shows the \$21.2 million base funding as well as the supplemental increases associated with residential rate changes each year from 2013 to 2017. The 2016-2017 program year budget of \$22.9 million, indicated in Staff's testimony and as reflected in the table below, refers to the summation of the \$21.2 base funding and the four annual increases that occurred in 2013-2016.

Staff proposes that any funding increase the Commission may authorize in this general rate case, either in an absolute dollar amount or as a percentage increase, be applied to the numbers in the last row of the table below, which indicates electric and gas totaling \$23.5 million. In addition to the authorized funding level, the PSE HELP funding available to community action agencies will also include any carry-over funding from prior years.

The table does not include the carry-over funding balance because the balance is constantly changing.

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	<b>Electric</b>	<b>Gas</b>	<b>Total</b>
Base Funding (Incorporated \$1 million increase per UE-121697/UG-121705)	\$15,900,000	\$5,300,000	\$21,200,000
Oct 1, 2013 Increase	497,670	180,730	678,400
Oct 1, 2014 Increase	8,660	-	8,660
Oct 1, 2015 Increase	468,002	88,698	556,700
Oct 1, 2016 Increase	257,392	179,989	437,381
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$17,131,724</b>	<b>\$5,749,417</b>	<b>\$22,881,141</b>
Oct 1, 2017 increase prospective	459,130	162,709	621,839
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$17,590,854</b>	<b>\$5,912,126</b>	<b>\$23,502,979</b>