

CITY OF LOWELL, OREGON

RESOLUTION 792

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE “UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.”

The City Council of the City of Lowell finds as follows:

The City Council established a “Utility Assistance Program” on June 23, 2020 through Resolution 746. Prior to the adoption of the “Utility Assistance Program,” the City Council obtained input on the program from the Budget Committee, as well as the community through a public hearing. The “Utility Assistance Program” was intended to be a pilot program, with an expiration date of December 31, 2020. The stated purpose of the program was to provide “utility rate relief ... for low-income residents.”

Since then, the program has provided much-needed relief to low-income residents. The City Council has voted three times to extend the program: first on November 17, 2020 with Resolution 756; second on July 21, 2021 with Resolution 768; and third on July 19, 2022 with Resolution 791.

At the July 19, 2022 meeting City Council approved Resolution 791, which extends indefinitely the program that Resolution 746 established. Also at this meeting, the City Council stated its desire to make the “Utility Assistance Program” a permanent program and to increase the benefit from a 25% discount to a 30% discount. The intention of the present resolution—Resolution 792—is to do just that.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVLED by the City Council of the City of Lowell as follows:

Section 1. A “Public Utility Assistance Program” is hereby established. The program provides a 30% reduction in the monthly fixed basic service charge for water and sewer service for residential customers. To apply for the benefit, customers must complete, sign, and turn in to the city the city’s “Utility Assistance Program Application.” To be eligible to receive the discount, the customer must meet all the following criteria:

- a) The customer must have both water and sewer service.
- b) The customer must have a household income less than 60% of the statewide median income as established by the most recently available “Annual Household Income Limits” table published by the Oregon Low Income Energy Assistance Program.
- c) The customer must demonstrate to the city that they meet the household income limit described in subsection (b) above. This can be accomplished by providing the most recent state or federal tax return, Form SSA 1099, or any other approval letter from a state or federal

agency qualifying them for programs that are based on income. Customers must validate their household income annually to the city to remain in the program.

Section 2. This Resolution is effective as of August 1, 2022.

Section 3. This Resolution supersedes Resolutions 746, 756, 791, and any other resolutions in conflict with Resolution 792.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Lowell this 2nd day of August 2022.

AYES: 5
NOES: 0

APPROVED:



Don Bennett, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jeremy Caudle, City Recorder