



## City of Buckley 2024 UTILITY DISCOUNT APPLICATION

**ELIGIBILITY:** In order to be eligible for a Utility Discount, a City of Buckley resident must be a low-income senior citizen, low-income disabled citizen, or seek an age waiver as defined by Buckley Municipal Code (BMC) 14.16.020.

**LOW INCOME:** Means a household earning less than seventy-five percent (75%) of the “low income” threshold listed in the most current years Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) Official Income Guidelines for Tacoma. Income guidelines are effective from July 1st of the year the application is filed to June 30th of the following year. All changes, at any time, with income or other eligibility requirements outlined in BMC 14.16.020 are required to be reported. For discounts on your utility rates, the income eligibility levels are as follows (please check income level below):

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Annual Gross Income</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> One person	\$48,675 or below
<input type="checkbox"/> Two persons	\$55,613 or below
<input type="checkbox"/> Three persons	\$62,550 or below
<input type="checkbox"/> Four persons	\$69,488 or below
<input type="checkbox"/> Five or more	See Informational Sheet

**DISABILITY:** Means an applicant qualifying for special parking privileges under RCW 46.16.381(1)(a) through (f), an applicant who is blind as defined in RCW 74.18.020, an applicant who is disabled, handicapped, or developmentally disabled as defined in RCW 71A.10.020(2), an applicant who is mentally ill as defined in RCW 71.05.020(1), or an applicant who is incapacitated as defined under any other existing state or federal program. Additionally, an applicant qualifies if they are under home kidney dialysis treatment.

**DISCOUNT REQUEST PROCEDURE:** In order to verify eligibility, you **must** provide the following.

Documentation with your Utility Discount Application:

- A copy of your 2023 Federal income tax return **or** 2023 Social Security Administration form SSA 1099.
- A list of names of all occupants residing in the household, including any boarders.
- Evidence or documentation confirming age and/or disability.
- List of individuals in household with income\* from any source including amount and tax return.
- Complete the information, sign the form and return it and the required documentation to:

City of Buckley – Attn: Utility Clerk  
P.O. Box 1960  
Buckley WA, 98321

\*Note: The income of a boarder for a fixed rental for fair market value does not constitute income for the household. However, income derived from rent from the boarder shall be included in the applicant’s income.

# INFORMATIONAL FACT SHEET

## Low Income Utility Discount Eligibility

The Buckley City Council through adoption of Ordinance 03-11 made significant changes to the thresholds and eligibility of low-income households to receive discounts from their monthly utility bills. Effective July 1, 2011 “low-income” households will no longer be eligible for a discount on their utility bill, unless they meet the definition of “low-income senior”, or “low-income-disabled” as defined by BMC 14.16.020.

Following is a brief fact sheet that lists minimum qualifications, income thresholds, procedures and applicant responsibilities related to the utility discounts.

Minimum Qualifications: To qualify as a “low-income senior” or “low-income-disabled” household an applicant must submit application and satisfy each of the following criteria:

1. Residency. The applicant must have established residency in the City of Buckley and provide evidence of such accompanying application for rate adjustment.
2. Age. The applicant must be 62 years of age, except that the age requirement is waived for the following applicants:
  - a. Disability. An applicant qualifying for special parking privileges under RCW [46.16.381](#) (1) (a) through (f), an applicant who is blind as defined in RCW [74.18.020](#), an applicant who is disabled, handicapped, or developmentally disabled as defined in RCW [71A.10.020](#)(2), an applicant who is mentally ill as defined in RCW [71.05.020](#)(1), or an applicant who is incapacitated as defined under any other existing state or federal program.
  - b. Dialysis. Applicants who are under home kidney dialysis treatment.
3. Provide Annual Income Records. **Between April 15th and June 15th of each year**, the applicant shall submit a copy of his or her 1040 tax form or an affidavit stating that income filing was not required due to income level, together with all requested evidence of the applicant’s income for the previous tax year. The applicant shall provide the city with the same information for every member of the applicant’s household.
4. Income. The annual gross income of the applicant’s household may not exceed 75% of the “low-income” threshold listed in the most current years Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) Official Income Guidelines for Tacoma listed in Table I below.

**Table I: Eligible Income Guidelines**

Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) Official Income Guidelines for the Tacoma Area (2024)								
Household Size	1 per-son	2 per-son	3 per-son	4 person	5 per-son	6 per-son	7 per-son	8 per-son
HUD “Low” Annual Income Level	\$64,900	\$74,150	\$83,400	\$92,650	\$100,100	\$107,500	\$114,900	\$122,300
Buckley Eligibility Threshold (75%)	\$48,675	\$55,613	\$62,550	\$69,488	\$75,075	\$80,625	\$86,175	\$91,725

Discount Rates: The discounted rate illustrated in BMC 14.16.040 (1) shall be applicable for the following residential services:

- a. Residential monthly sewer utility rate
- b. Residential monthly water utility rate up to 700 cubic feet
- c. Residential stormwater utility rate

Discounted rate for qualifying accounts shall be determined based on the following:

<b>Household Income</b>	<b>Percent Reduction</b>
0-50% of the qualifying income	30%
51%-100% of the qualifying income	15%

**TABLE II: Income Percent Reduction**

Income Percent Reduction Thresholds - 2024								
Household Size	1 per- son	2 per- son	3 per- son	4 per- son	5 per- son	6 per- son	7 per- son	8 per- son
30% Reduction; = or <	\$24,338	\$27,806	\$31,275	\$34,744	\$37,538	\$40,313	\$43,088	\$45,863
15% Reduction: = or < but > above	\$48,675	\$55,613	\$62,550	\$69,488	\$75,075	\$80,625	\$86,175	\$91,725
Monthly Income for Eligibility 30%	\$2,028	\$2,317	\$2,606	\$2,895	\$3,128	\$3,359	\$3,591	\$3,822
Monthly Income for Eligibility 15%	\$4,056	\$4,634	\$5,213	\$5,791	\$6,256	\$6,719	\$7,181	\$7,644

Non-resident property owner may also obtain the reduction if the premises are rented to a qualified senior citizen or low-income disabled citizen and the owner certifies the savings are passed to the qualifying renter. Applicants shall not receive an increased discount for additional household members who would also qualify for a utility discount under the above sections.

The discounted rate shall take effect on the first billing cycle following the submittal of the applicant’s application pursuant to BMC [14.16.030](#) (1)(d).

Change in Applicant Income. If the applicant’s income, or the income of an applicant’s household member, exceeds the posted income schedule at any time during the effective dates of the filed income schedule, the applicant shall no longer qualify and may be subject to the penalties set forth below in BMC [14.16.020](#) (3)(d).



**\*Office Use Only\*** \_\_\_\_\_ %

Customer Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

Staff Name & Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Utility Discount Application Form**

Return the completed application to Finance Department, City Hall  
933 Main Street, Buckley, WA 98321 • Phone 360-761-7888 • Fax 360-829-9659  
Email: ksoler@cityofbuckley.com

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

SERVICE ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

New Application

Reapply

Owner

Renter

HOUSEHOLD RESIDENTS:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

Now, therefore I, \_\_\_\_\_ certify under penalty of perjury that the information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and that if I fail, whether intentionally or inadvertently, to report a change in any of the above conditions that would disqualify me for the discount/benefit, or fail to meet any of the above requirements, I agree to repay the amount of the discount/benefit. I also agree to pay a penalty of 20 percent of the amount owing or a \$25.00 fine, whichever is greater, following a failure to comply with any requirement of the provisions governing the utility discount program.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date:        /        /