



City of Buckley

UTILITY DISCOUNT APPLICATION

Eligibility: In order to be eligible for a Utility Discount, you must be a low-income senior citizen or low-income disabled citizen 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. For discounts on your 2020 utility rates, the income eligibility levels are as follows (please check income level)

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Annual Gross Income</u>
One person	\$36,338 or below
Two persons	\$41,550 or below
Three persons	\$46,725 or below
Four persons	\$51,900 or below
Five or more	See Informational Sheet

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

- A copy of your 2019 Federal income tax return **or** 2019 Social Security Administration form SSA 1099.
- A list of names of all occupants residing in the household, including any boarder's. (use space provided below)
- 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 below, sign the form and return it and the required documentation to City of Buckley, P.O. Box 1960, Buckley WA, 98321 (360) 761-7888.

*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.

APPLICANT INFORMATION		
NAME:	PHONE:	
STREET ADDRESS:	APARTMENT #:	
ZIP CODE:		
MAILING ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
HOUSEHOLD RESIDENTS:		
1)	3)	
2)	4)	
<p>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;</p>		
_____		_____
Date		Signature

RE: 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 any and 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 (2019)								
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	\$48,450	\$55,400	\$62,300	\$69,200	\$74,750	\$80,300	\$85,850	\$91,350
Buckley Eligibility Threshold (75%)	\$36,338	\$41,550	\$46,725	\$51,900	\$56,063	\$60,225	\$64,338	\$68,513

Discount Rates: The discounted rate illustrated in BMC 14.16.040 (B) 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 monthly solid waste rate for one 32 gallon can or less, once a week pickup, including spring and fall cleanup;
- d. Residential stormwater utility rate.

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

Household Income Percent Reduction

0-50% of the qualifying income 30%

51%-100% of the qualifying income 15%

TABLE II: Income Percent Reduction

Income Percent Reduction Thresholds - 2018								
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 <	\$18,169	\$20,775	\$23,363	\$25,950	\$28,031	\$30,113	\$32,194	\$34,256
15% Reduction: = or < but > above	\$36,338	\$41,550	\$46,725	\$51,900	\$56,063	\$60,225	\$64,338	\$68,513
Monthly Income for Eligibility 30%	\$1,514	\$1,731	\$1,947	\$2,163	\$2,336	\$2,509	\$2,683	\$2,855
Monthly Income for Eligibility 15%	\$3,028	\$3,463	\$3,894	\$4,325	\$4,672	\$5,019	\$5,366	\$5,709

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).