



SHARE PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS

Public Utilities

City Council
May 17, 2022

RiversideCA.gov

1

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

1. Assembly Bill (AB) 1890 was adopted in 1996, and required publicly owned utilities to collect and spend Public Benefits Charge funds for low-income assistance, energy efficiency and conservation programs, renewable energy, and research, development, and demonstration projects.
2. Senate Bill (SB) 756 was adopted in 2021, and expanded the definition of low-income for the purposes of the Energy Savings Assistance Program from 200% of the federal poverty level guidelines to 250%.



2

RiversideCA.gov

2

BACKGROUND

1. SHARE program established in 1989
Originally funded from direct customer contributions
2. May 22, 2018: City Council Approved First Enhancement
 - a. Expanded to 200% of the federal poverty level
 - b. \$14 per month electric bill credit (up to \$168 per year)
 - c. \$2.25 per month water bill credit (up to \$27 per year)
 - d. Five (5) one-year automatic renewal periods
 - e. Funding: \$2.8 million
 - i. \$2,550,000 – Direct customer assistance
 - ii. \$ 250,000 – County Administration fee



3

RiversideCA.gov

3

BACKGROUND

3. Aligned with Electric and Water Rate Increases
City Council approved:
 - a. July 2, 2019 - \$14.50 electric, \$2.50 water
 - b. July 21, 2020 - \$15.00 electric, \$2.75 water
 - c. March 23, 2021 – emergency/deposit assistance
increased from \$150 to \$250
 - d. August 23, 2021 - \$15.50 electric, \$3.00 water



4

RiversideCA.gov

4

DISCUSSION

1. Increase Water Monthly Credit

- a. Next water rate increase scheduled for July 1, 2022
- b. Increase water monthly credit from **\$3.00** to **\$3.25**
(up to \$39 per year, 7% increase)

2. Increase Electric Monthly Credit

- a. Next electric rate increase scheduled for January 1, 2023
- b. Increase electric monthly credit from **\$15.50** to **\$16.00**
(up to \$192 per year, 4% increase)



5

RiversideCA.gov

5

DISCUSSION

3. Increase Income Eligibility

- a. Increase income eligibility from 200% of the federal poverty level guidelines to 250%.
- b. Participation may double from the present average of 4,000 approved customers



6

RiversideCA.gov

6

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT



Strategic Priority No. 5 - High Performing Government

Goal 5.4 Achieve and maintain financial health by addressing gaps between revenues and expenditures and aligning resources with strategic priorities to yield the greatest impact.

Cross-Cutting Threads



Community Trust



Fiscal Responsibility



Sustainability &
Resiliency



Equity



Innovation



7

RiversideCA.gov

7

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council:

1. Approve an increase of the Sharing Households Assist Riverside's Energy Program's Electric Monthly Credit from \$15.50 per month to \$16.00 and Water Monthly Credit from \$3.00 to \$3.25 to align with electric and water rate increases for Fiscal Year 2022/23; and
2. Approve to update the Sharing Households Assist Riverside's Energy Program guidelines from 200% of the federal poverty level guidelines to 250%.



8

RiversideCA.gov

8