Public utility tax credits for billing discounts and qualifying contributions

This is our annual update on the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) including the Public Utility Tax Credit Application for July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

The Department of Commerce (COM) administers LIHEAP in cooperation with light and power businesses and gas distribution businesses. Under this program, COM administers funds from various sources to reduce energy costs for low income persons. COM, or organizations that contract with COM, distributes these funds in the form of grants to light and power businesses and gas distribution businesses based on need. Many light and power businesses and gas distribution businesses also provide billing discounts for low income customers.

To encourage billing discounts and contributions, Revised Code of Washington 82.16.0497 allows a limited credit against the public utility tax for billing discounts and qualifying contributions made by light and power businesses or gas distribution businesses.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the credit using billing discounts or qualifying contributions, the business must give billing discounts or qualifying contributions greater than 125% of those given by the business in the state fiscal year 2000 (July 1, 1999 - June 30, 2000), respectively. If no billing discounts or qualifying contributions were given in state fiscal year 2000, a credit is allowed in the first fiscal year that billing discounts or qualifying contributions are given. Each year thereafter, the business must give billing discounts or qualifying contributions of greater than 125% of those given in the first year, respectively, to be eligible for the credit.

Amount of credit

The maximum amount of credit is either 50% of the light and power or gas distribution business's total billing discounts and qualifying contributions, or the business's base credit, whichever is less. A business's
base credit is its proportional share of all grants given through the COM and/or qualifying organizations in the prior fiscal year multiplied by $2.5 million (statewide credit cap).

Each year, the Department of Revenue will notify light and power and gas distribution businesses of the amount of their base credit. The base credit for state fiscal year 2021 is enclosed.

Credit application

Eligible businesses must apply for the credit. The application asks for the amount of billing discounts or qualifying contributions that the business will make in the next state fiscal year. If the total amount of credits to be taken by the businesses in the upcoming fiscal year is less than the $2.5 million statewide cap, the Department of Revenue will proportionately increase the base credit for each business that submitted an application. Businesses will be notified of the increased amount of credit that they may take.

The Public Utility Tax Credit Application is enclosed. The application must be mailed to the department and postmarked by July 1, 2020.

Definitions

Billing discounts are actual reductions in the amount charged for providing service to qualifying persons in Washington.

Billing discounts do not include service charge reductions made using grants received from the LIHEAP, either from COM or an organization that contracts with COM, to administer LIHEAP funds.

Qualifying contributions are amounts given by light and power businesses or gas distribution businesses to an organization that contracts with COM to administer LIHEAP funds.

Qualifying contributions do not include amounts received in the prior fiscal year from the business's customers for the purpose of assisting other customers.

Qualifying person means a Washington resident who applies and qualifies for LIHEAP assistance regardless if that person actually receives assistance.

More information

If you have any questions, please call 360-705-6218.
Public Utility Tax Credit Application
Low Income Assistance

Business Name: ___________________________ Account ID: ___________ –__________ –__________

**Line No.**

**STEP 1 – Customer Donations, Actual Billing Discounts, and Actual Qualifying Contributions.**
*(For Information Only)*

1 Money received from customers in the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 (if any) for the purpose of assisting other customers ................................................................. $ 

2 Billing Discounts given in the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 ............................................ $ 

3 Qualifying Contributions given in the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 ................................ $ 

**STEP 2 – Computation of Billing Discount Credit**

4 The amount of billing discounts anticipated between July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 ....................... $ 

5 a) Billing discounts given July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000 (if none, go to b) ........................................ $ X 1.25 = $ or $ 

b) Billing discounts given, first qualifying fiscal year July 1, _______, through June 30, ____________ $ X 1.25 = $ 

6 Compare the amount on Line 4 with the amount on Line 5. If the amount on Line 4 is larger than the amount on Line 5, enter the amount from Line 4 on Line 6. If the amount on Line 4 is smaller than the amount on Line 5, enter “0” on Line 6 ........................................................................................................ $ 

**STEP 3 – Computation of Qualifying Contributions Credit**

7 The amount of qualifying contributions anticipated between July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 ......... $ 

8 a) Qualifying contributions made July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000 (if none, go to b)................................. $ X 1.25 = $ or $ 

b) Qualifying contributions made first qualifying fiscal year July, _______, through June 30, ____________ $ X 1.25 = $ 

9 Compare the amount on Line 7 with the amount on Line 8. If the amount on Line 7 is larger than the amount on Line 8, enter the amount from Line 7 on Line 9. If the amount on Line 7 is smaller than the amount on Line 8, enter “0” on Line 9 ................................................................. $ 

**STEP 4 – Total Credit**

10 Add Lines 6 and 9 above ............................................................... $ X .50 = $ 

11 Enter your amount of base credit. See the attached notice ................................................................. $ 

12 Enter the lesser amount from Line 10 or 11. This is your Low Income Assistance Credit ................................ $ 

⇒ Note: The Department of Revenue may proportionately recalculate the credit to ensure the statewide cap is met.

Signature: ___________________________________________ Date: ___________________________

Title: ___________________________________________ Phone Number: __________________________

Application must be postmarked on or before **July 1, 2020.**
If you have any questions, please call 360-705-6218.

Return to: Department of Revenue
Taxpayer Account Administration
ATTN: SPECS
PO Box 47476
Olympia, WA 98504-7476

For tax assistance or to request this document in an alternate format, please call 360-705-6705. Teletype (TTY) users may use the Washington State Relay Service by calling 711.

REV 41 0078 (5/12/20)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registration #</th>
<th>Vendor</th>
<th>YTD Liheap</th>
<th>Proportionate Share</th>
<th>Base Credit</th>
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<td>578-012-340</td>
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</table>

**Totals** | **$23,480,386.00** | **100.0000%** | **$2,500,000.00**