

City of Long Beach Utility Users Tax Exemption Program Changes

The Long Beach Water Department participates in the City of Long Beach Utility Users Tax Exemption program for low-income senior and low-income disabled customers. This program provides water and sewer rate relief to customers who meet the low-income senior citizens or low-income disabled requirements listed below.

The Utility Users Tax Exemption Program currently includes the following benefits:

- ***Provides a discount on Tier I water usage***
- ***Exempts customer from paying sewer service charges***
- Five percent (5%) discount on gas services
- Exempts customer from paying the five percent (5%) Utility Users Tax on gas, water, electric, and telephone bills
- Provides reduced refuse/recycling rate
- Reduces \$35.00 service establishment fee to \$15.00, if you qualify within six months of establishing service

As of July 1, 2017, the Utility Users Tax Exemption Program will be changed to include the following benefits:

- ***Exempts customer from paying for Tier I water usage***
- ***Provides an approximate \$5.00 monthly water service charge credit***
- Five percent (5%) discount on gas services
- Exempts customer from paying the five percent (5%) Utility Users Tax on gas, water, electric, and telephone bills
- Provides reduced refuse/recycling rate
- Reduces \$35.00 service establishment fee to \$15.00, if you qualify within six months of establishing service

Why are changes being made to the program?

Under California law (Proposition 218) rate revenue from customers can only be used to cover the cost to provide that service. Only revenue from other sources (not from customers or other services provided) can be used to fund discount programs. Currently, the Sewer Fund does not have sufficient revenues from other sources to pay for the sewer services charge exemption. However, the Water Fund does have sufficient revenue from other sources, and has increased the water services discount to approximately equal the current program's total benefits. Therefore, the total discount benefit to qualified water and sewer customers will remain approximately the same.

Program Eligibility Requirements and Application

Low-Income Senior Citizens: Customers must be at least 62 years of age, and meet certain income requirements.

Low-Income Disabled: Customers who have a qualifying disability as defined in Section 223 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 423) and Section 102(b)(5) of the Developmentally Disabled Assistance and Bill of Rights Act [42 U.S.C. 6001(7)], and meet income requirements.

Applications are accepted at any of the locations listed below. Prior to applying, call for guidelines and required proof of eligibility. Please call the Long Beach Senior Center, at (562) 570-3533 and ask for details.

Long Beach Senior Center
1150 East Fourth Street
(562) 570-3533
Apply in person from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday – Friday

El Dorado Park Community Center
2800 Studebaker Road
(562) 570-3225 or 570-3229
By Appointment Only

Houghton Park Senior Center
6301 Myrtle Avenue
(562) 570-1640
Assistance provided 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Monday – Friday