

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 20120607-055 TO DEFINE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE AUSTIN ENERGY CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

PART 1. The second paragraph of the community benefit charge schedule of Ordinance No. 20120607-055 is amended to read:

The Customer Assistance Program (CAP) funds programs to help qualifying low-income and other disadvantaged residential customers, including bill discounts, payment assistance, and free weatherization services. The Customer Assistance Program is available to a residential customer[s] [receiving] who receives, or who resides with a household member who receives, assistance from the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP), the Travis County Hospital District Medical Assistance Program (MAP), the Supplemental Security Income Program (SSI), Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), [and] or the Telephone Lifeline Program. CEAP, MAP, SSI, Medicaid and SNAP recipients will be given priority for program funding, followed by CHIP and then Telephone Lifeline recipients. Customers enrolled in the CAP are exempt from the monthly Customer Charge and the CAP component of the Community Benefit Charge, shall receive a minimum 10 percent discount on kilowatt-hour-based charges, and are eligible for additional bill-payment assistance and weatherization assistance. Eligible residential customers will be matched for automatic enrollment through a third-party, though self-enrollment will be available directly through Austin Energy. Funding for the CAP shall be made available at the level of revenues collected through the CAP component of the Community Benefit Charge, including unexpended but re-appropriated funds. Information regarding the CAP shall be made available quarterly, including the number of residential customers enrolled automatically and through self-enrollment, the total and average amount of benefits provided, and the number of residential customers referred to the low-income weatherization program. With Council approval funds unspent at the end of a fiscal year shall be rolled over to the next fiscal year's budget for the CAP and low-income weatherization programs.

PART 2. The Council finds that defining the eligibility requirements for the Customer Assistance Program constitutes an emergency. Because of this emergency, this ordinance takes effect immediately upon its passage for the immediate preservation of the public peace, public health, and safety.

PASSED AND APPROVED

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_____, 2013

Lee Leffingwell
Mayor

APPROVED: _____

Karen M. Kennard
City Attorney

ATTEST: _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk

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