



## BELLEVUE UTILITY RATE DISCOUNT- 2021

450 110<sup>TH</sup> Ave NE

P.O. Box 90012, Bellevue, WA 98009-9012

Phone: 425-452-5285

Language line assistance provided upon request. TTY Relay: 711

Web: [bellevuewa.gov/UtilityRelief](http://bellevuewa.gov/UtilityRelief)

Email: [UtilityRelief@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:UtilityRelief@bellevuewa.gov)

### GUIDELINES FOR UTILITY RATE DISCOUNT

NOTE: If your utility costs are included in your rent or paid to a third party, visit the website noted above or call Bellevue Utilities to get a 2021 Utility Rate Rebate Application Packet.

#### 1. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The City of Bellevue offers rate relief assistance to seniors and residents with permanent disabilities living within the service area of Bellevue Utilities that meet specific low-income guidelines. Residents that pay their bills directly to the City of Bellevue can get a discount of 70% off the basic costs of 2021 water, wastewater and drainage services (up to 11 CCF of water and wastewater service charges bimonthly and drainage service charges up to a 10,000 ft<sup>2</sup>, moderately-developed lot) by qualifying for this program. Please note: certain charges such as capital recovery charges (CRCs) and direct facility connection charges (DFCCs) cannot be discounted. Residents **MUST** apply or renew their participation for this program annually. Approved residents also qualify for a rebate on utility occupation taxes paid to the City. Tax rebate checks will be mailed by the City in late December 2021. In addition, approved residents living within Bellevue city limits also qualify for a rate discount on garbage service. Garbage bill discounts are implemented by Republic Services, Inc., the City's solid waste collection vendor.

**NOTE:** Programs are based on available funding and subject to change without notice.

#### 2. APPLICATION DEADLINE

Your completed application and all required documentation must be received by City of Bellevue Utilities no later than 4:00 p.m. on **Friday, October 29, 2021**.

#### 3. EXPIRATION OF 2020 DISCOUNTS

To ensure your discount continues without interruption, your application and required documentation must be received by **April 30, 2021**. If your application is received after April 30, 2021, your discount will be cancelled. Once your new application has been approved and processed, your discount will be applied, and your account will be credited back.

#### 4. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must be:

- Low-income seniors, 62 years of age or older in 2021, (OR)
- Low-income permanently disabled persons receiving disability benefits from a government program such as the Social Security Administration and/or Veteran's Administration in 2021; AND
- Living at the address receiving services in 2021. Applicant's primary residence must be within the service area of City of Bellevue Utilities.
- Must meet the household income\* guideline below:

Household Size in <u>2020</u>	Total Household Income* for <u>2020</u>
1 person	\$41,800
2 persons	\$47,800
3 persons	\$53,750
4 persons	\$59,700
5 persons	\$64,500
6 persons	\$69,300

\* Income means "disposable income," as defined in RCW 84.36.383, plus all disability compensation and any and all gifts. Total household income is the total income for everyone living in the household during 2020. Examples of income and required documentation are described in the "How to Apply" section that follows.

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## 5. HOW TO APPLY

You must fill out and return a *2021 Utility Rate Discount Application* with required identification, residency, income and disability (if applicable) documentation. Applications are available online at [bellevuewa.gov/utilityrelief](http://bellevuewa.gov/utilityrelief) or by calling Bellevue Utilities at 425-452-5285 to request an application.

**Once you have the application package, the next steps are:**

1. Collect the necessary documents from the required document list below.
2. Complete the application. Read the "Important Information" statement, sign and date the application.  
NOTE: If you are signing on behalf of an applicant, you must provide a copy of the Power of Attorney authorizing you to do so.
3. Submit the completed and signed application with copies of all required documentation. Application packages **MUST** be received by City of Bellevue Utilities no later than 4:00 p.m., PST, on **Friday, October 29, 2021**. Late or incomplete applications cannot be processed. Applicants are encouraged to turn their applications in early to ensure timely processing. There are two ways to apply for the program:
  - By Mail –You may apply by mail. Please sign and date the application and include copies of all required documentation when returning your paperwork. Incomplete application forms or missing documentation will delay the processing of your application. Please return your paperwork in the return envelope included with this packet.
  - Electronically - You may submit your application electronically by emailing [UtilityRelief@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:UtilityRelief@bellevuewa.gov) and requesting access to a secure folder where you may upload your scanned documents. Please do not email your documents.

Submitting an application does not guarantee eligibility. Applications submitted without complete documentation cannot be processed.

## 6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS Photocopies of the following must be provided with your signed application form:

- A. Proof of 2020 Income for each Member of Household.** Please provide photocopies of completed and signed 2020 Tax Return(s) and other 2020 statements/documentation\* for EVERY person living with you in 2020 and for ALL income sources that apply to your household during 2020. Some examples of household income include, but are not limited to:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| • Salary/Wages/Tips, etc. (W-2)  | • Pension/Veteran's/Annuities (1099-R)            |
| • Interest/Dividends (1099-INT/1099-DIV)   | • Railroad Retirement Benefits (RRB-1099)         |
| • Alimony/Spousal Maintenance (State/DSHS stmts.)  | • Unemployment/Labor and Indus. (1099-G)          |
| • Business Income, include rental property income and/or rental pymts. co-tenant (1040 + Sch. C) | • Social Security Statement (SSA, SSI, SSDI 1099) |
| • Capital Gains/Losses (1040 + Sch. D)   | • Gifts/Cash                                      |
| • IRA withdrawal (1099-R)  | • Work Study Earnings                             |
|  | • Military pay/benefits                           |
|  | • Other   |

\* If unable to provide income documentation from the original source, provide all 2020 bank stmts. to evidence deposits for the same.

- B. Identification for All 2020 Household Members Is Required.** Valid photo identification is required for each person living in your household in 2020. Acceptable forms of ID include: Driver's License, WA State ID card, Passport, or other government issued photo ID. For household members under the age of 18, submit a copy of their certified birth certificate. Do not submit copies of Social Security cards. Please **DO NOT SEND ORIGINALS** as we cannot return or guarantee their safety. NOTE: **Expired ID will not be accepted.**
- C. Proof of 2021 Primary Residence Within Bellevue Service Area Is Required.** The qualifying person for relief must be named on the City of Bellevue Utilities account for which relief is requested, must reside in the dwelling unit at all times the discount is in effect, and contribute to the payment of utility service charges from their own resources.

- D. If Permanently Disabled, Proof of Disability 2021 Award and Earnings Is Required. If you and/or any other member of your household are permanently disabled, you MUST provide a Benefit Verification Letter from a government program such as Social Security and/or Veterans' Administration specifically stating that recipient is entitled to and is receiving "disability" benefits in 2021. Documentation of disability income payments received during 2020 is also required.

## 7. FOLLOWING APPLICATION SUBMITTAL

Please note the following:

- Application processing at the onset of the program may take longer than 10 weeks due to extremely high application intake volume.
- Providing a complete application with all required documentation helps expedite processing.
- If your application is denied, you will be notified.
- Qualified applicants will see a utility rate discount applied to their utility bill once the application has been approved and processed. Republic Services, Inc. will be notified to implement the garbage service rate discount, if applicable.
- If applicant remains in the Utility Rate Relief Program throughout the year, a 2021 tax relief rebate will be automatically processed *without additional paperwork*. Tax rebate checks will be mailed in late December 2021.

The Utilities Department reserves the right to audit or request additional information related to any application or renewal to ensure eligibility and compliance with the program's requirements. The department may deny any application or renewal which contains any false or misleading representation of fact or may revoke eligibility for rate relief which was procured by fraud or by any false, misleading representation of fact, or refusal to comply with any audit. Any funds reimbursed or the difference in rates discounted as a result of fraud or false or misleading representation of fact by the applicant shall be returned to the City. The City may use any lawful means necessary to seek repayment of said funds. **NOTE: Applicants must promptly notify Bellevue Utilities if there is a change of address.**



For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable accommodation requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-5285 (voice) or email [UtilityRelief@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:UtilityRelief@bellevuewa.gov). For complaints regarding accommodations, contact City of Bellevue ADA/Title VI Administrator at 425-452-6168 (voice). If you are deaf or hard of hearing dial 711. All meetings are wheelchair accessible.



# BELLEVUE UTILITY RATE DISCOUNT APPLICATION - 2021

DD2

450 110<sup>TH</sup> Ave NE

P.O. Box 90012, Bellevue, WA 98009-9012

Phone: 425-452-5285

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Web: [bellevuewa.gov/UtilityRelief](http://bellevuewa.gov/UtilityRelief)

Email: [UtilityRelief@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:UtilityRelief@bellevuewa.gov)

OFFICE:

Date Rec'd: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Complete: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## OFFICE USE ONLY

PIN:	INCOME:	F or P:
CIS CYCLE:	D or S:	BATCH:
MONTHS (1-12):	TAX PRORATION:	START DATE EXCEPTION:
		DD2

Check:

___ Incl List	___ Signature	___ Disability	___ Income	___ ID/Age	___ Residency
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- Applicant's Legal Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_  
LAST NAME FIRST NAME
- Are you 62 years old or older? ☐ Yes ☐ No Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_
- Do you pay a utility bill for water to the City of Bellevue? ☐ Yes ☐ No If Yes, account # \_\_\_\_\_  
If No, STOP. You do not have the correct application. Contact Bellevue Utilities for a Rate Rebate Application.
- Complete address for your Primary Residence \_\_\_\_\_
- Current mailing address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_
- Phone (with area code): \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_
- Do you: ☐ Own house/condo ☐ Rent house/condo
- Have you qualified for this program before? ☐ Yes. Year \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ No.
- Are you permanently disabled and receiving disability benefits in 2021? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, evidence is required.  
If applying on behalf of a permanently disabled child, do disability benefits pay a portion of utility costs?  
☐ Yes ☐ No
- How many people lived with you in your household in **2020**? \_\_\_\_\_ Print the names of each person below:

FIRST NAME (Legal Names Only)	LAST NAME	Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy)	Relationship to Applicant	Permanently Disabled? Yes or No (If Yes, provide evidence)
A.				
B.				
C.				
D.				
E.				
F.				

**11. Did you or anyone living in your household in 2020 have income from any of the sources below during 2020? You MUST check the 'Yes' or 'No' box for each item below and provide documentation\* to verify the same.**

**Y N**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Salary/Wages/Tips, etc. (W-2)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Interest & Dividends (1099-INT/1099-DIV)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alimony/Spousal Maintenance (State/DSHS Stmts.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Capital Gains/Losses (1040 + Sch. D)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Business Income, include rental income and/or rental payments from co-tenant (1040 + Sch. C)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	IRA withdrawal (1099-R)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pension/Veteran's Benefits/Annuities (1099-R)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad Retirement Benefits (RRB-1099)

**Y N**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unemployment/Labor and Industries (1099-G)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social Security (SSA, SSI, SSDI, 1099 Stmts.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Work Study Earnings (School Stmts.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gifts/Cash – Explain:
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military pay/benefits
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other income for 2020 - Explain:
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Did you/member(s) of household file a 2020 Tax Return? <b>Provide copy of <u>signed</u> 1040 with all attachments.</b>

\* If unable to provide income documentation from an original source, provide 2020 bank statements reflecting all deposits for the above.

**12. Do you consent to have your contact information (name and mailing address) shared with other City of Bellevue departments to receive information about additional low-income assistance programs?**

☐ Yes ☐ No

**CHECK LIST: Provide COPIES (no originals) of the following documents with your application. Applications cannot be processed without required documentation.**

- ☐ **Identification** – Valid picture identification for all persons 18 years and older who lived in the household during 2020. For those under the age of 18, submit a certified birth certificate. **Do not send copies of Social Security cards. Expired ID will not be accepted.**
- ☐ **Income Documentation for 2020** (i.e., 2020 tax returns, statements, etc.) Evidence of all income for EACH household member living with you during 2020. Includes EVERY income source that was marked “yes” in Question 11.
- ☐ **Proof of Permanent Disability** - If applicable, provide Benefit Verification Letter from a government program such as Social Security and/or VA, stating specifically that recipient is entitled to and is receiving “disability” funds in 2021. Documentation of 2020 disability income is also required.

### How to Apply

1. Collect the required identification, residency, income, and disability (if applicable) documents. Applications submitted without complete documentation cannot be processed.
2. Fill out the application, read the “Important Information” statement. Sign and date the application.
3. Completed application and documentation must be received by City of Bellevue Utilities no later than **4:00 p.m., PST, on Friday, October 29, 2021**. Late or incomplete applications cannot be processed. Applicants are encouraged to submit their applications early to ensure timely processing. You may submit your application by:
  - Mail: Return your application by mail to: City of Bellevue Utilities, PO Box 90012, Bellevue, WA 98009-9012; or

- Electronically: Submit your application electronically by emailing UtilityRelief@bellevuewa.gov and requesting access to a secure folder where you may upload your scanned documents. Please do not email your documents.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION – PLEASE READ BEFORE SIGNING

***I, the undersigned, under penalty of perjury of the laws of the state of Washington do hereby declare and certify:***

- That I have read and understood all of the 2021 Utility Rate Relief Program Guidelines for Utility Rate Discount (02/01/2021) provided with this application, and that all of the information provided by me on this application is accurate, complete, and true to the best of my knowledge.
- That I understand that submitting the required documentation does not guarantee eligibility to the program. Such information will, however, be used to determine if I qualify for benefits under the program.
- That I understand that the income documents I provided will be used by the City to create an income worksheet that will be used to determine income qualification.
- That I have read the definition of “disposable income” for the program and to the best of my knowledge, I and my household are eligible for the program.
- That I have provided a true and accurate list of “disposable income” to the City for 2020.
- That I understand the rate discount is for 2021 only and it is my responsibility to re-apply or renew my participation for this or any other rate relief program during application periods for those programs.
- That I understand that any attempt to falsify my information will result in my disqualification from the program for this year and may subject me repayment of the benefits received and further civil or criminal penalties.
- That I understand the City reserves the right to audit my records to determine my eligibility for the program.
- That I understand that if I receive utility relief and do not disclose all sources of disposable income for household members for 2020, the City may recover the actual cost of my utility bills for the period that I was not eligible.

Applicant Signature\* \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\* If signing for an applicant, MUST provide a copy of the Power of Attorney authorizing you to do so.

#### Office Use Only

Approved/Disapproved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Verified: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Old CIS Multiplier Date: \_\_\_\_\_ New CIS Multiplier Date: \_\_\_\_\_

CIS Update – Initials: \_\_\_\_\_ Verified: \_\_\_\_\_

DISC Update - Initial: \_\_\_\_\_ Verified: \_\_\_\_\_

Application Denied:    Over Income    Doesn't Qualify    Incomplete Paperwork    Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
                                  Updated CIS    Logged Denied    Added to 2022 mailing list

Office Notes: