



## Memphis City Council Summary Sheet

Resolution changing eligibility requirements for the Utility Assistance Program

- A change to the existing resolution
- Expenditure of funds/requires a budget amendment: NA
- Sponsored by Councilwoman Fullilove

## CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Memphis has an Utility Assistance Program to provide relief to citizens struggling to pay their utility bills; and

WHEREAS, the Utility Assistance Program was designed to help residents who need emergency funds for energy and utility expenses; and

WHEREAS, due to certain eligibility requirements of the program, many citizens were not able to receive the help needed; and

WHEREAS, the Memphis City Council recognizes the change in the economic climate and the growing need for economic sustainability has severely impacted the budgets of everyone especially those citizens living on fixed incomes, working at minimum wage jobs and facing a hardship such as hospitalization or loss of job; and

WHEREAS, legislative changes were made in Nashville during the 106th General Assembly to expand eligibility from 125 percent to 200 percent of poverty; that means a family of four can earn up to \$44,100 a year and be eligible for LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Memphis City Council desires to continue providing a functional program that reaches those citizens who meet the following criteria currently in place:

### Requirement A

1. Must be 60 years of age or older and/or certified medically as being totally (100%) disabled
2. Head of household
3. Active utility account in applicant's name or spouse's name
4. Must have received a cut-off notice

OR

### Requirement B

1. Head of household or spouse on active military deployment
2. Active utility account in applicant's name or spouse's name
3. Combined household income that does not exceed 125% of the established federal poverty income level
4. Must have received cut-off notice

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Memphis City Council hereby amends Requirement A (1) and Requirement B (3) to:

### Requirement A

1. Must be 30 years of age or older and/or certified medically as being totally (100%) disabled and/or faced with a hardship such as recent job loss or hospitalization

OR

### Requirement B

3. Combined household income that does not exceed 200% of the established federal poverty income level

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Memphis Light Gas & Water administration is asked to provide monthly to the Council, a list of all customers meeting the eligibility requirements established above and to promptly apply any payments made by the City to Memphis Light Gas & Water under the Utility Assistance Program to the accounts of those customers approved by the Council.

July 6, 2010

JANIS FULLILOVE  
Council Member