

RULE 20**CASCADE ARREARAGE RELIEF ENERGY SAVINGS (CARES) PROGRAM****PURPOSE**

The purpose of this rule is to define the parameters for applying an energy burden discount on a qualifying customer's monthly gas bill and an up-front arrearage relief grant on a customer's outstanding balance, if applicable.

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AVAILABILITY

This rule applies to residential customers or household members of a dwelling served on Schedule 503, Residential Service Rate, who have declared that their household is low-income.

LOW-INCOME DEFINITION

A customer is considered low-income if their gross cumulative household income inclusive of deductions in alignment with the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), for a specific timeframe within the last twelve months, extrapolated for twelve months, does not exceed 80% of the county's area median income (AMI) or 200% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for a household with the same number of occupants.

PROGRAM DELIVERY

The Company will administer the program in collaboration with Community Action Agencies (Agencies) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) (hereafter referred to as Program Administrators). A Program Administrator requesting access to Cascade's customer data through Web Assist and/or compensation for program delivery must have an executed agreement with the Company.

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APPLICATION FOR CARES

Customers or household members may apply for the program by calling a Program Administrator, meeting with a Program Administrator, or completing the online application found on www.cngc.com, which can either be printed and mailed or submitted electronically. A customer may also ask a Program Administrator to mail a hard copy application to their residence.

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(C)**POST ENROLLMENT VERIFICATION (PEV)**

Customers may qualify for service under this rule by declaring that their household is low income. The Company may randomly select up to five percent (5%) of customers who enrolled by declaring their low-income status for PEV of their declared income.

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If the customer selected for income verification fails to provide timely documentation of income, they may be removed from the program but will not be required to reimburse the Company for any discounts received prior to removal.

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If a customer who has been removed from CARES for failing to verify their household income provides the Agency documentation verifying income within 60 days after being removed from the program, the Company will reenroll the customer into CARES and will credit the customer's account for the discount the customer would have received had the customer not been removed from the program.

TERM

Qualifying customers are enrolled in CARES for twenty-four (24) months, after which time it is the customer's responsibility to reapply for continued service in this program by contacting the Company or a Program Administrator, or by submitting a completed application form found on the Company's website. The twenty-four-month term restarts the full billing month when the customer receives a LIHEAP grant. The Company shall make sufficient effort to notify the customer prior to the end of their term of service in the CARES Program. Customers will be provided with a mailed notice 60 and 30 days prior to the end of the customer's CARES term of service. In addition, the utility must provide an electronic copy of the notice, if the utility has such contact information for the customer and the customer has consented to electronic delivery of notices from the utility, at the time the utility mails or delivers the paper copy of the notice. Upon sending the second notice, the Company will also make at least two attempts to contact the customer by telephone.

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(K)

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(K) refers to language that has moved from Sheet No. 20-A to Sheet No. 20-B.

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RULE 20**CASCADE ARREARAGE RELIEF ENERGY SAVINGS (CARES) PROGRAM****PROGRAM YEAR**

The program year is a 12-month period starting October 1 of each year.

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PROGRAM COSTS

Program costs, including discounted amounts, arrearage relief grants, program delivery, and marketing, will be tracked for collection through Schedule 592, CARES Cost Recovery.

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PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR PAYMENT

Cascade will reimburse Agencies for CARES program administration by paying Agencies \$75 for each customer touchpoint completed in the prior program year. A touchpoint is defined as an Agency-processed CARES enrollment whether initiated independently or through the processing of a LIHEAP grant; an Agency-processed CARES grant; or an Agency's verification of a CARES customer's self-attested income.

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Cascade will reimburse CBOs for CARES Administration on a case-by-case basis.

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AUTO-ENROLLMENT

Cascade auto-enrolls a customer into CARES when the customer receives a CARES, LIHEAP, or Winter Help grant. The Company may use available third-party data to auto-enroll income-eligible customers into the program. If household income information is not available, the customers will be placed in Tier 5 of the program. If an auto-enrolled customer declares having a household income that qualifies them for a higher discount rate, the Company will enroll the customer in the appropriate tier at the next billing cycle.

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PROGRAM MARKETING

The Company and Agencies will collaborate on a joint communications plan to market the CARES program using various channels.

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(continued)

(M) refers to language now on Sheet No. 20-B that was previously found on Sheet No. 20-A

(N)

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Issued by CASCADE NATURAL GAS CORPORATION

By:  Michael Parvinen

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RULE 20

CASCADE ARREARAGE RELIEF ENERGY SAVINGS (CARES) PROGRAM

ADVISORY GROUP

An Advisory Group consisting of key stakeholders, including Public Counsel, Commission Staff, the Energy Project, NW Energy Coalition, Cascade, and representatives from each of the Agencies, will discuss and provide advice to the Company on program-related matters. This includes identifying and reviewing data necessary to meet the following goals: reduce customers' energy burden, keep customers connected to energy service, provide energy assistance to more customers than are currently served, collect data necessary to assess program effectiveness and inform ongoing policy discussions, and maximize the use of funding for energy assistance from government sources, e.g., LIHEAP. The advisory group will hold meetings at least twice a year via teleconference or in person. While the advisory group can offer guidance and suggestions, the Company is not bound to follow their recommendations when submitting proposals or tariff changes to the Commission.

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ENERGY DISCOUNT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. The energy discount offered under CARES will not be prorated upon initiation of service but will begin at the start of the first full billing month that the customer has qualified for the program.
2. A customer receiving a bill discount may still be eligible to apply for other available financial assistance programs, such as LIHEAP and Winter Help.

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ARREARAGE RELIEF TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. The arrearage relief grant is an upfront, irrevocable credit applied to the customer's bill within a few business days of qualifying for the program.
2. A customer who receives partial arrearage relief may be placed on a time payment arrangement (TPA) for up to 24 months to pay their remaining past due balance. The unpaid balance will be billed in equal amounts over the term of the TPA.
3. A customer may receive up to two arrearage relief grants within a program year, where the sum of the two grants does not exceed \$500. Exceptions may be allowed at the discretion of Cascade's management.

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RULE 20**CASCADE ARREARAGE RELIEF ENERGY SAVINGS (CARES) PROGRAM****GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

1. Energy discounts and arrearage relief rates for service on the CARES Program are established in Schedule 302, Cascade Arrearage Relief Energy Savings (CARES) Discount Rates.
2. A customer may only apply for a bill discount under this rule by declaring their household income once per program year. Customers seeking to qualify for a different discount tier more than once per program year must provide income documentation to an Agency. A customer may receive up to two arrearage-relief grants per year at the tier on which they receive a discount without providing income documentation. (C)
3. A customer receiving CARES service is not obligated to report a change in income during the enrollment term but may choose to do so, in which case, the bill assistance tier will be modified to reflect the customer's most recent income data. (C)
4. Service under this rule is governed by the terms of this schedule, the rules contained in this Tariff, any other schedules that apply to service under this schedule, and all rules and regulations prescribed by regulatory authorities, as amended from time to time.

ANNUAL REPORT

By January 15, the Company will file an annual report with the Commission regarding the performance of the program. The report will provide information on the total dollars spent, dollars discounted from energy bills, dollars allocated for arrearage relief, program delivery costs incurred by the Agencies, the number of households served per each Agency, program expenditures on marketing, an overview of CBO activities, and a comparison of program results with the previous program year. The Advisory Group may specify additional content for the report.

By evaluating key metrics and comparing them to previous years, the report will be used to facilitate an informed assessment of the program's impact on eligible customers and to identify areas for improvement.