

CITY OF EL MONTE

SPECIAL NOTICE FOR SENIOR LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS REGARDING EXEMPTION FROM UTILITY USER'S TAX

The El Monte City Council has included in the Utility User's Tax Ordinance, a provision that exempts certain low-income households from payment of utility user taxes on their GAS, ELECTRICITY, and TELEPHONE bills. In order to be exempted from the tax, eligible households must file an application with the city. Enclosed is an application form for use in applying for exempted status. Please read this notice and the application form carefully. If you meet the eligibility criteria, complete the application and mail it immediately, or you may drop it off at the City of El Monte Finance Department located in City Hall East.

WHAT ARE THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS?

The eligibility requirements are based on:

- The number of persons in the household.
- Combined annual gross income of all members of the household.
- Households which have more than eight (8) members are allowed an additional \$1,975.00 per additional household member.

No. in Household	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Annual Gross Income	\$19,750	22,550	25,400	28,200	30,450	32,700	34,950	37,200

WHAT IS MEANT BY "GROSS INCOME OF THE HOUSEHOLD"?

Gross Household income is defined as:

- Being ANY and ALL income received by EVERY member of the household during the prior year, regardless of source.
- Includes but is not limited to wages, salaries, bonuses, tips, gross amounts of pensions and annuities, retirement benefits, social security payments, disability payments, life insurance benefits, interest, capital gains, and inheritances.
- APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION TO VERIFY AGE AND THE INCOME AMOUNTS MUST ACCOMPANY THE CITY OF EL MONTE APPLICATION FORM.
- Documentation includes a copy of income tax forms of the applicant and other wage earners in the household for two (2) prior years (State and Federal), W-2 forms, social security checks, welfare checks, or any other official document that indicates the annual gross household income.
- Verification of age documentation includes a copy of the California Drivers License or California Identification Card.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE IS AN INCREASE IN GROSS HOUSEHOLD INCOME BEYOND THE LIMITS ALLOWED UNDER THE EXEMPTION PROGRAM?

- Household must notify the City within 10 days of change in status that affects the income eligibility of the household.
- The City will in turn notify the appropriate utilities, and the exemption will be terminated.
- It is a misdemeanor for a utility user who fails to qualify for the low-income exemption to receive the benefit of the exemption.

HOW OFTEN MUST A LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLD APPLY FOR EXEMPTED STATUS?

Once a household has established its eligibility to be exempt, the exemption status will remain in effect with no requirement to re-file unless:

- There is a change of address
- There is a change of service account number
- A discontinuance/suspension of service at the request of the service user.