



## UTILITY ASSISTANCE

Many different charities, non-profits and other local organizations are available in Whatcom County. These groups offer a wide variety of assistance programs. Please contact them directly to inquire about available assistance.

### Churches

Assumption Catholic Church.....	360-733-1380
Sacred Heart Church\St Vincent de Paul.....	360-734-2850
St. Paul Episcopal .....	360-733-2890
Whatcom Love Inc. (Work with large group of Churches).....	360-671-6201

### Organizations

Opportunity Council.....	360-255-2192
--------------------------	--------------

### Veteran Assistance

Whatcom County Veterans Program.....	360-715-7453
--------------------------------------	--------------

### Senior\Disabled Discounts

#### Utility Bill Reduced Rates

Reduced rates are available for water, sewer and storm water utilities provided by the City of Bellingham. Customers are eligible for a discount on their bill if they are a low income senior, or disabled adult living in a residence receiving a separate City of Bellingham water or sewer bill. The following table provides the age and income requirements to qualify for a discount:

<b>Age</b>	<b>Income</b>
62+	\$42,043 or less
18+	\$42,043 or less <b>and</b> receive permanent Social Security Disability payments

**Rate Reduction**

Qualified customers receive a reduction on their utility bill by the following percentages:

<b>Household Income</b>	<b>Percent Reduction</b>
0 - 50% of the qualifying income	75%
51% - 75% of the qualifying income	50%
76% - 100% of the qualifying income	25%

**Income**

Single-family household income includes income from all persons living in the home. This includes income received from wages, retirement benefits, retirement income including IRA's, social security, supplemental security income (SSI), permanent social security disability income (SSDI), VA Benefits, interest income from savings, bonds, annuities, etc., gross rental income, gross business income, etc. Copies of tax returns with all schedules and supporting documentation must be submitted. If you are applying for a disability reduction, you must provide a current (less than three months old) statement of eligibility, plus the above requirements. You can call the Social Security office at 1-800-772-1213 to request benefit verification.

**Application Process**

To make application for reduced rates, fill out the [Application for Rate Reduction on City Utility Bills \(PDF\)](#) and place in the drop off box located outside of City Hall with a copy of all supporting documentation, for all members of your household, or mail to: City of Bellingham Finance Department, City Hall, 210 Lottie Street, Bellingham, WA 98225.

**Notification of Change**

Customers receiving rate reductions are required to notify the Finance Department immediately when household income level changes, disabled status changes, the house is sold, home is unoccupied, or the house is no longer the primary residence.