



CARE/FERA – FACT SHEET

Discounts on Energy Bills for Income Qualified Households 2018

What is California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE)?

The California Alternate Rates for Energy or CARE (previously referred to as Low Income Ratepayer Assistance or LIRA Program) was established in 1989. In 1992 and 1995, its reach was expanded to include qualified group living facilities such as women’s shelters, hospices, and homeless shelters and then migrant farmworker housing, employee housing, and agricultural employee housing.

CARE is funded through a rate surcharge paid by all other utility customers on their monthly bill. Households that participate in certain financial assistance programs¹ are automatically eligible for CARE benefits.

Low-income customers that are enrolled in the CARE program receive a 30-35 percent discount on their electric bill and a 20 percent discount on their natural gas bill.

Key Program Details

Eligible customers are those whose total household income is at or below the income limits indicated in the chart below. California has a [Low-Income Oversight Board](#) (LIOB), which the Legislature established to advise the CPUC on the utilities’ energy low-income assistance programs under the CPUC’s jurisdiction. The CPUC may adjust these income limits each year depending on inflation

CARE Income Guidelines*	
Household Size	Income Eligibility Upper Limit
1-2	\$32,480
3	\$40,840
4	\$49,200
5	\$57,560
6	\$65,920
7	\$74,280
8	\$82,640
Each Additional Person	\$8,360
* Effective June 1, 2017 to May 31, 2018	

¹ Eligible financial assistance programs include MediCal; Women; Infants, and Children (WIC) Program; Food Stamps; National School Lunch Program; and CalWorks.





What is Family Electric Rate Assistance Program (FERA)?

Families whose household income slightly exceeds the CARE allowances will qualify to receive FERA discounts, which applies a 12% discount on their electricity bill. FERA is available for customers of Southern California Edison, San Diego Gas & Electric Company, and Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

Key Program Details

Eligible customers are those whose total household income is at or below the income limits indicated below. The following income limits are in effect from June 1, 2017 to May 31, 2018.

FERA Income Guidelines		
Household	200% of Federal Poverty Guidelines (CARE/ESAP) +1	250% of Federal Poverty Guidelines (FERA)
3	\$40,841	\$51,050
4	\$49,201	\$61,500
5	\$57,561	\$71,950
6	\$65,921	\$82,400
7	\$74,281	\$92,850
8	\$82,641	\$103,300
Each Additional Person	\$8,360	\$10,450

The average annual budget for the FERA program is \$12.1 Million (with the administrative costs making up approximately 1% of the total). As of December 2016, approximately 56,000 households were enrolled in FERA.

