



## Purpose

The Gastonia Electric Assistance Resource (GEAR) program was designed to offer assistance to very low income customers to offset the electric rate increase. The program:

- ✓ Enables customers with very low incomes to manage and afford electricity.
- ✓ Provides a monthly credit of \$25 up to \$35 per month for a twelve-month period for approved applicants.

## Who is Eligible?

- ✓ City of Gastonia customers who are active accountholders that are billed for electric services and have the service established in their name, and
- ✓ Have a twelve- month history of electric metered services with the City of Gastonia at the current address.

## Requirements

- ✓ Applicants must re-certify for the program assistance annually
- ✓ Applicants must come to the office for an intake interview and provide all required documents

## Disqualification Factors

- Customers receiving electric utility assistance through subsidized housing programs.
- No record of unauthorized usage of any utility service.
- Customers whose electric utilities are included with the rent.
- Customers who move during the 12-month eligibility period.
- Customers who do not meet the minimum requirements as listed.

## Maximum Qualifying Income

The income for each household (this means the combined earning of all persons living in the house) per year must be no more than the amounts shown in the following table:

2020	1 person	2 people	3 people	4 people	5 people	6 people	7 people	8 people
Annually	17,550	20,050	22,550	26,200	30,680	35,160	39,640	44,120

**\*Income effective 7/1/2020 through 6/30/2021**

## Sources of Income

The following items are sample income sources that must be disclosed at time of application:

- ✓ Documentation of any unearned income
- ✓ Self-employed – The most recent federal income tax return with all attachments. If no return has been filed, documentation of your monthly earnings
- ✓ Alimony
- ✓ Child Support
- ✓ Full-time Employment
- ✓ Part-Time Employment
- ✓ Retirement Benefits
- ✓ Social Security
- ✓ SSI Supplement
- ✓ Unemployment Benefits
- ✓ Workers Compensation

## How to apply

Schedule an appointment and bring:

- ✓ Proof of income for all household members
- ✓ Current ID for the utility accountholder
- ✓ A copy of the current utility bill
- ✓ Proof of residence (tax bill, rent receipt or lease)

## Questions or to Apply

Call the Housing and Neighborhoods Division at (704) 866-6753 or (704) 866-6752.