Date Filed: March 31, 2026

Witness: Cain, Jessica B
Request from: Public Utilities Regulatory Authority

Question:

Refer to the table found at Discount Rate | Eversource (below).

a. Please provide the maximum income allowed for each government benefit listed in the table.
b. Please specifically explain the difference between SSI and SSDI, and if there are threshold income differences.
c. Please indicate in what decision or ruling PURA approved each of these specific benefits in their respective tier.

Table two: Public assistance benefits that qualify you

5%	15%	20%	40%	50%
Medicare Savings Programs (MSP) -Additional Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (ALMB) -Special Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB) HUSKY A, B, C -HUSKY (B and 1, Prenatal) -HUSKY A Pregnant Women and Postpartum -HUSKY C Long-Term Services and Supports Special/Limited Medical Benefit Connecticut Energy Assistance Program CEAP Level 3 Section 8 Housing/ Rental Assistance Program (RAP)	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Connecticut Energy Assistance Program CEAP Level 2 Husky A children under 19 Medicare Savings Program (MSP) Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Program (QMB) Women Infants and Children (WIC) Connecticut Free or Reduced Lunch*	Medicaid or Access Health -Husky D, Husky A Parents and Caretakers	Connecticut Energy Assistance Programs (CEAP Level 1)	Temporary Family Assistance (TFA or TNFA) Refugee Cash or Medical Assistance Medicaid/HUSKY C (non-LTSS) State Administered General Assistance (SAGA) State Cash Assistance or State Supplement Head Start Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/Social Security Disability Income (SSDI)

*Citywide free school meal program participants are not eligible for the discount rate, unless income is certified by the school food service manager.

Response:

The Company notes that the categorical eligibility list was initially created for the 2-Tier Low-Income Discount Rate ("LIDR")[1]. In transitioning to the 5-Tier LIDR, the Company used the DSS-provided listing to map to the new Tiers, including SSI and SSDI which are not administered by the state of Connecticut.

a. The maximum income benefit for each of the benefits listed in the table was first provided in the Company's February 1, 2023 (supplement filed on June 23, 2023) filing in Docket No. 17-12-03RE11, this filing was in compliance with Order No. 3 in PURA's October 2022 Decision. At the time of the filing, the Company implemented a two tier discount rate. For many of public assistance benefits administered by the Department of Social Services ("DSS"), DSS provided the income thresholds during the July 22, 2024 technical session. This presentation was filed by the Office of Consumer Counsel ("OCC") as correspondence on September 3, 2024, in Docket 17-12-03RE11.

   PURA's November 20, 2024, Decision included a listing of the approved categorical eligible benefits *administered by the state of Connecticut* for the 5-tier LIDR at Appendix A shown below and further explained on page 13 of that PURA decision.[i]

[1] https://www.dpuc.state.ct.us/2nddockcurr.nsf/8e6fc37a54110e3e852576190052b64d/37bba58293769bb5852589d7006b3620/$FILE/Order%20No.%203%20Attachment%201%20rev.%202%20Amended%20(06.23.23).pdf

APPENDIX A: Approved Five-Tiered LIDR Modification

New Tier	Gross Income Limit (FPL)	Current Tier
Tier 1 (212–275% FPL | 60% SMI)		
ALMB / SLMB	212–246%	1
Husky B Band 1	292–254%	1
Husky B Prenatal	263%	1
Husky A Pregnant / Postpartum	263%	1
Husky C Long Term Services and Supports	225%	2
Special / Limited Medical Benefit	263%	1
CEAP Level 3	275% (60% SMI)	1
Tier 2 (161–211% FPL)		
SNAP	200%	2
CEAP Level 2	200%	1
Husky A Children	201%	2
QMB (lowest $ Medicare Savings Program)	211%	2
Tier 3 (126–160% FPL)		
Husky D	138%	2
Husky A Parents	138%	2
Tier 4 (101–125% FPL)		
CEAP Level 1	125%	2
Tier 5 (Up to 100% FPL)		
Temporary Family Assistance	55%	2
Refugee Assistance	55%	2
Husky C (non-LTSS)	58%	2
SAGA	225%	2
State Supp	225%	2

b. Both Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") and Social Security Disability Income ("SSDI"), are *administered through the Federal* Social Security Administration and can be found through DSS' website at https://portal.ct.gov/ads/about-us/disability-determination-services?language=en_US. The financial eligibility criteria are different yet both within Tier 5 (up to 100% FPL). SSI doesn't consider work history and SSDI considers recent work history and both are for customers with disabilities. DSS programs such as Cash Assistance, Medicaid and Medicare use SSI and SSDI as part of their criteria eligibility.

c. PURA approved the categorical eligible benefits for the 2-Tier LIDR on February 28, 2023 in the Ruling on Motion 56 in Docket No. 17-12-03RE11. Additionally, the categorical eligible benefits list was revised to provide updated categorical eligibility when the Company implemented a five-tier discount rate.

PURA reviewed and approved LIDR communications in 2023. See Docket 23-05-01, PURA Ruling on Motion Nos. 11 and 12 (issued July 31, 2023) approving with modification ES LIDR communications materials. PURA approved some modifications to these communications in its May 2024 Ruling on Motion No. 90.

[i] PURA November 20, 2024 Decision at 13

> Upon reviewing the DSS-provided data, the EDCs' analyses, and other record evidence, the Authority determines that a five-tiered LIDR with discounts of 5%, 15%, 20%, 40%, and 50%, respectively, is a beneficial and cost-effective design for low-income customers that also balances ratepayer impacts; see Table 2, see also Appendix A for corresponding categorically eligible public benefits. The five-tiered structure allows the LIDR to provide higher levels of benefits to the lowest income customers while limiting the overall cost burden to ratepayers.

Table 2: Authority's Approved five-tiered LIDR Modification

Tier	Discount
1	*212% – 275% FPL, Up to 60% SMI*
	5%
2	*161% – 211% FPL*
	15%
3	*126% – 160% FPL*
	20%
4	*101% – 125% FPL*
	40%
5	*Up to 100% FPL*
	50%

DSS Corresp., July 21, 2024, LIDR Tiers; Eversource Supp. Late Filed Ex. 27, Att. 2.