

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

AR 653

In the Matter of

Revisions to Division 21 Rules to Strengthen
Customer Protections Concerning
Disconnections.

ORDER

**DISPOSITION: MOTION TO DESIGNATE PROCEEDING AS ELIGIBLE FOR
HB 2475 FUNDS GRANTED, PROPOSED BUDGET FOR HB 2475
GRANT APPROVED**

On July 22, 2022, Community Action Partnership of Oregon (CAPO) filed a notice of participation, a request for House Bill (HB) 2475 funding and a proposed budget in docket AR 653. No response to the filing was made. CAPO's proposed budget shows eligible expenses of \$7,175, and it seeks an HB 2475 Funding Grant of \$7,175. I grant the requests of CAPO, and its proposed budget is approved.

The Commission Approved Form of Interim Funding Agreement in Order No. 22-043 defines "Eligible Dockets" as a proceeding before the Commission to review:

1. Non-complaint contested cases, rulemakings, and non-contested dockets that affect the applicable utility and its low-income residential customers and environmental justice communities,
2. Named, non-docketed Commission led processes addressing issues that affect the applicable utility and its low-income residential customers and environmental justice communities, or
3. An Integrated Resource Plan.

Investor-owned utilities (IOUs) Portland General Electric Company (PGE); PacifiCorp, dba Pacific Power; Northwest Natural Gas Company, dba NW Natural; Avista Corporation, dba Avista Utilities; Idaho Power Company; and Cascade Natural Gas Corporation are directly affected by docket AR 653. This docket involves revisions to Division 21 rules on the rights of utility customers, particularly those experiencing low income, regarding disconnection procedures. CAPO claims this proceeding will likely have a substantial impact on the IOUs because the Division 21 rules regarding customer protections will directly impact utilities' responsibilities to their customers. CAPO states

that the Division 21 shutoff rules impact low-income residential customers and other disproportionately energy burdened environmental justice communities. Therefore, the rule revisions developed in this proceeding will directly impact the utilities' low-income residential customers and other customers in environmental justice communities.

CAPO asserts that it is eligible for funding pursuant to Commission Order No. 22-043. CAPO advocates for energy assistance programs that benefit low-income residential customers and environmental justice communities, including seniors, people with disabilities, people of color, and other historically marginalized groups with disproportionately high energy burdens, many of which may be affected by the rule revisions.

I agree that CAPO qualifies as an eligible organization under Order No. 22-043. I find that docket AR 653 qualifies as an eligible proceeding because the proceeding is anticipated to have a substantial impact on the low-income residential customers and environmental justice communities serviced by IOUs in Oregon. Docket AR 653 will address rule changes which directly impacted low-income residential customers and environmental justice communities represented by CAPO. Accordingly, the motion should be granted and this docket certified as an eligible proceeding.

The Interim Agreements for HB 2475 Intervenor Funding, approved by the Commission in Order No. 22-043, provides that pre-certified intervenors must submit a proposed HB 2475 Grant Funds budget to the Commission that contains, at a minimum, the following information:

1. A statement of work to be performed by the Recipient for which the Recipient is seeking funding;
2. A description of the areas to be investigated and addressed by Recipient;
3. A budget showing estimated attorney fees, which may include the cost for appropriate support staff and operational support; and
4. A budget showing estimated consultant fees and expert witness fees, which may include the cost for appropriate support staff and operational support.

Once a proposed budget is received, the Commission decides whether HB 2475 Grant Funds are available for use based on factors identified in the Interim Agreements for HB 2475 Intervenor Funding. The Commission has the authority to accept, deny, or partially deny the request, and may place reasonable conditions on the grant, and may delegate this responsibility to the Chief Administrative Law Judge, consistent with Order No. 21-213.

CAPO's proposed budget includes the requisite information and reflects the current schedule adopted in these dockets.

In light of the issues being addressed, the complexity of the issues and the significant policy decisions to be made, CAPO's proposed budget is reasonable and should be approved.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. This proceeding is designated as a proceeding eligible for HB 2475 Funds.
2. Community Action Partnership of Oregon is certified to receive funds in this docket.
3. The Community Action Partnership of Oregon's proposed budget for an HB 2475 Funding Grant is approved.
4. An HB 2475 Funding Grant is approved up to \$7,175 for activity in docket AR 653.

Made, entered, and effective Oct 10, 2022



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nolan Moser".

Nolan Moser
Chief Administrative Law Judge

A party may request rehearing or reconsideration of this order under ORS 756.561. A request for rehearing or reconsideration must be filed with the Commission within 60 days of the date of service of this order. The request must comply with the requirements in OAR 860-001-0720. A copy of the request must also be served on each party to the proceedings as provided in OAR 860-001-0180(2). A party may appeal this order by filing a petition for review with the Court of Appeals in compliance with ORS 183.480 through 183.484.