

**DOCKET NO. 12897-U**

**ORDER REGARDING UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND  
GRANT PROGRAM TO ASSIST LOW-INCOME SENIOR CITIZENS**

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 46-4-161, the Commission hereby creates a grant program to assist low-income seniors. The Commission finds that such a program is necessary because a large number of low-income senior citizens have had difficulty paying their natural gas bills over the last year. Many such customers have been disconnected from natural gas service for unpaid bills. Many more such customers are past due on their bills and are subject to disconnection. Because the winter heating season is approaching and because this group of customers is particularly vulnerable to health problems that could arise because of a lack of proper heating, the Commission finds that it is necessary to create a grant program to assist such customers in reconnecting and retaining natural gas service.

Under this program, the Commission will allocate a \$2 million grant from the Universal Service Fund (“USF”) to an appropriate entity to be selected by the Commission to assist low-income seniors in paying their natural gas bills. These funds will be used only to assist low-income seniors to pay their natural gas bills. It will be a state-wide program limited to low-income senior citizens (65 years old or older) who are natural gas customers served on Atlanta Gas Light Company’s distribution system. The USF money will be provided on a dollar-for-dollar matching basis.

Once the Commission has selected the entity to be the grant recipient, the Commission shall enter into an appropriate agreement with such entity setting forth the parameters and requirements of the grant program.

Upon notification from the Commission that a recipient of the grant has been selected, the escrow agent shall wire transfer \$2,000,000 to the designated recipient.

The Commission finds and concludes that the grant program provided for herein is necessary and appropriate.

**WHEREFORE IT IS ORDERED**, that all Findings, Conclusions and Decisions contained within are adopted as Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Decisions of this Commission.

**ORDERED FURTHER**, that the grant program described herein is hereby approved.

**ORDERED FURTHER**, that jurisdiction over this proceeding is expressly retained for the purpose of entering such further order or orders, as this Commission may deem proper.

**ORDERED FURTHER**, any motion for reconsideration, rehearing or oral argument shall not stay the effectiveness of this Order unless expressly ordered by the Commission.

The above by action of the Commission in Administrative Session on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 2001.

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Reece McAlister  
Executive Secretary

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Stan Wise  
Vice-Chairman

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