

Stakeholder Group Compensation FAQs

Q. When was the program created?

A. On January 3, 2024, the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (Authority or PURA) established the Stakeholder Group Compensation Program, including an application and approval process for stakeholder group compensation in eligible PURA dockets. See Public Act No. 23-102, § 15(b)(1), codified as General Statutes § 16-9c(b)(1).

Q. Where can I find General Statutes § 16-9c(b)(1)?

A. It is posted in the 2024 Supplement on the General Assembly's website: [General Statutes § 16-9c](#).

Q. What type of docket is eligible for Stakeholder Group Compensation?

A. Compensation is available in dockets opened on or after January 3, 2024, in which a public service company is (1) a party to a proceeding, investigation, or rulemaking before the Authority, or (2) a party to alternative dispute resolution ordered by the Authority.

Q. What is a “proceeding” before PURA?

A. “Proceeding” means a contested case, investigation, rulemaking or other formal proceeding before the Authority, or alternative dispute resolution ordered by the Authority, pertaining to a gas company, water company, pipeline company, electric distribution company, or electric supplier (defined in [General Statutes § 16-1](#)).

Q. What role must a group have in a proceeding to apply?

A. A stakeholder group that seeks designation as an intervenor pursuant to [General Statutes § 4-177a](#) or a participant, pursuant to [Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies § 16-1-135](#), may apply for an award of compensation.

Q. What is an “intervenor” in a docket?

A. A person or group can be designated an intervenor to participate in a contested case. An intervenor's participation may be limited, for example, to particular issues or stages of the proceeding.

Q. What is a “participant” in a docket?

A. Any person granted permission by the Authority to take part in an uncontested proceeding shall be designated a participant. Typically, the Authority determines the nature and extent of a participant's participation in an uncontested proceeding.

Q. Are there other eligibility requirements for stakeholder groups?

A. Yes, a stakeholder group must be either (1) a non-profit organization or (2) a group of persons designated an intervenor or participant.

Q. Who can the stakeholder group represent?

A. A stakeholder group must represent the interests of at least one of the following three types of customers: (1) customers living in environmental justice communities, (2) customers qualifying as financial hardship cases, or (3) small businesses.

Q. How is an “environmental justice community” (EJC) defined?

A. An EJC is defined by [General Statutes § 22a-20a\(a\)\(1\)](#) as (A) a United States census block group for which 30% or more of the population consists of low-income persons who are not institutionalized and have an income below 200% of the federal poverty level or (B) a [distressed municipality](#), as defined in [General Statutes § 32-9p\(b\)](#).

Q. Are any groups excluded from eligibility?

A. Yes, the program excludes any nonprofit or other organization whose principal interests are (1) the welfare of a public service company or its investors or employees, or (2) the welfare of one or more businesses or industries which receive utility service primarily for use in connection with the manufacture, sale or distribution of goods or services for profit. State agencies, such as the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the Office of the Attorney General, and the Office of Consumer Counsel are also excluded from the program.

Q. How do I file something with PURA?

A: You must first [register here](#) to access the web-filing account management system and submit an electronic filing to PURA. From here you can create a new account, modify an existing account, or request forgotten log-in information. For more information, visit [Make An Electronic Filing](#).

Q. When do I need to file my [Notice of Intent to Apply for Stakeholder Group Compensation](#) (Notice of Intent)?

A. The deadline to file the Notice of Intent will be included in the Notice of Proceeding (NOP) for the docket in which you intend to participate (relevant docket).

Q. Where do I need to file my Notice of Intent?

A. You must file your Notice of Intent as correspondence in both [Docket No. 23-09-34](#) and the relevant docket.

Q. When do I need to file my [Application for Stakeholder Group Compensation](#) (Application)?

A. The deadline to file the Application will be included in the NOP for the relevant docket.

Q. Where do I need to file my Application?

A. You must file your Application as a motion in Docket No. 23-09-34.

Q. Can anyone file a Notice of Intent and Application?

A. You must be a group that fits one of the categories included in General Statutes § 16-9c(a)(2). You can read the full definition of “stakeholder group” in [General Statutes § 16-9c](#).

First, the group must be either a (1) group of persons designated an intervenor or a participant in a docket or (2) non-profit organization. Second, the group or non-profit organization must represent the interests of (1) customers living in environmental justice communities, (2) customers qualifying as hardship cases, or (3) small businesses.

Q. Are there other requirements for participation in the relevant docket?

A. Yes, you must request intervenor or participant status to participate in the relevant docket and be eligible for compensation. You may make that request by filing the [Motion for Intervenor/Participant Status](#) form.

Q. Do I have to use the [Motion for Intervenor/Participant Status](#) form?

A. No, the [Motion for Intervenor/Participant Status](#) form is provided for your convenience, but you are free to draft your own motion.

Q. Do I need to request intervenor or participant status in Docket No. 23-09-34?

A. No. You will automatically be granted participant status in Docket No. 23-09-34 when you file a Notice of Intent in Docket No. 23-09-34.

Q. Do I need to file a new Notice of Intent in each docket I want to participate in and receive compensation?

A. Yes. You must file a Notice of Intent as correspondence in each docket you want to participate in (and file a copy each time as correspondence in Docket No. 23-09-34).

Q. Do I need to file a new Application for each docket I want to participate in and receive compensation?

A. Yes. You must file a new Application as a motion in Docket No. 23-09-34 for each relevant docket you want to participate in.

Q. When can I receive the compensation available under the program?

A. Typically, payments are made at the conclusion of the proceeding. However, advance payments may be made if a stakeholder group can demonstrate they have a significant financial hardship.

Q. How can I get an advance payment?

A. You must apply for an advance payment by completing section IV of the Application and including the expenses you seek advance payment for on your [Itemized Budget](#) form.

Q. What kinds of expenses are eligible for compensation?

A. Reasonable attorneys' fees, reasonable expert witness fees, and other reasonable costs for preparation and participation in a proceeding before the Authority. Other reasonable costs are reasonable out-of-pocket expenses directly related to the group's preparation for or participation in the proceeding.

Q. Is my group limited to \$100,000 per year?

A. No, a group is limited to \$100,000 *per proceeding*.

Q. Who pays the compensation?

A. Any public service company that is a party to the proceeding, investigation, or rulemaking may be ordered to pay compensation. Public service companies then recover the cost of compensation from ratepayers.

Q. How can I learn more about PURA?

A. You may find it helpful to watch the informational videos and recordings of public meetings that PURA shares on its YouTube channel: [Connecticut PURA - YouTube](#).

Q. How can I learn more about PURA proceedings that I can participate in?

A. You can view a list of PURA proceedings (also known as dockets) in which a [Notice of Proceeding has been issued within the last 30 days](#). In addition, you can browse PURA's [Docketed and Undocketed Databases](#), including [lists of Dockets by Industry](#).

If you know the docket number of a particular proceeding, you may access all of the publicly available filings associated with that docket through the [PURA Docketed Database Filings](#).

Q. What is OCC?

A. "The Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC), is an independent state agency with statutory responsibility to represent customers of Connecticut's five regulated utilities – electric, gas, water, telephone, and to some extent, cable television, primarily in matters that go before the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA). The OCC is authorized

to participate on behalf of consumer interests in all administrative and judicial forums and in any matters in which the interests of consumers with respect to public utility matters may be involved.” [OCC At a Glance](#).

Q. Do we have to be a nonprofit group or form an LLC to participate as a stakeholder group?

A. No, a group of persons designated as an intervenor or participant is eligible, regardless of nonprofit or organizational status.

Q. What kind of documentation do I need to submit for a planned expense?

A. You should attach an invoice, quote, or other estimate for each planned expense.

Q. What kind of proof do I need to submit for an incurred expense?

A. You should attach an invoice or receipt for each incurred expense.

Q. What if the incurred expense was more than the planned expense?

A. You must note the difference in expenses on the [Itemized Expenditures](#) Form and include relevant invoices or receipts showing the increased expense. If program funding is available, the additional expense *may* be authorized, if the expense is compensable and statutory limits will not be exceeded.

Q. What if the incurred expense was less than the planned expense?

A. You must note the difference in expenses on the [Itemized Expenditures](#) Form and include relevant invoices or receipts showing the decreased expense.

Q. Can we get \$200,000 if the docket spans more than 1 calendar year?

A. No. The \$100,000 limit is per group, per docket, regardless of the docket length.

Q. How can I request a protective order for information in my Application and other submissions?

A. You may file a motion requesting an exemption from public disclosure, in accordance with the [Connecticut Freedom of Information Act, General Statutes § 1-200 et seq.](#) The motion must provide specific facts and legal arguments, with reference to state or federal law, explaining why the information should be kept confidential. A certified affidavit supplied by a competent witness in support of the motion must be appended to the motion. Additional instructions and information about confidential documents are included in the Notice of Proceeding in every Authority docket.

Q. What type of information can be kept confidential if I file a motion for a protective order?

A. The Connecticut Freedom of Information Act includes several exemptions, found at [General Statutes § 1-210\(b\)](#).

Q. If my stakeholder group is deemed ineligible for compensation through this program, can we still participate in proceedings before the Authority?

A. Yes!