

**RIDER 173  
UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROGRAM (USP) RIDER**

Sheet No. 1 of 1

**TO WHOM AVAILABLE**

This Rider shall be applicable to the Rate Schedules as identified in Appendix A.

**DESCRIPTION**

This Rider shall provide funding for an assistance program for Low-Income and Hardship Customers throughout the area served by the Company.

For purposes of this Rider, “Low-Income Customer” shall mean a customer who qualifies and is approved for federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (“LIHEAP”) assistance as determined by the State of Indiana, and “Hardship Customer” shall mean either (a) a customer who does not qualify for such assistance but who falls at or below 250% of the federal poverty guidelines as issued annually by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, or (b) a customer who qualifies for LIHEAP assistance, but is a veteran of the United States Armed Forces (“Veteran”) and/or at least age 60 as of the start of the heating season (“Senior Citizen”). Customers who qualify as a Hardship Customer as a Veteran or Senior Citizen will receive a one-time grant per LIHEAP heating season at a maximum level set each LIHEAP heating season, with the grant not to exceed the customer’s past due bill at the time the grant is made. This benefit does not preclude a Veteran or Senior Citizen participating in the Hardship program from receiving benefits through the LIHEAP or Low-Income Customer programs. Customers who qualify as Hardship Customers as a Veteran or Senior Citizen may also qualify for other Hardship program benefits. NIPSCO will not spend more than \$400,000 for one-time grants for Veterans and Senior Citizens during a LIHEAP heating season.

**USP FACTORS**

The USP Factors are set forth in Appendix D.

**Issued Date  
01/19/2022**

**Effective Date  
01/19/2022**

