

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

01

What is Cents of Community?

Cents of Community is a program that offers a simple way for members to contribute to 501(c)(3) charitable organizations in the Chugach service area by rounding monthly electric utility bills to the nearest whole dollar. The extra cents go toward supporting local community programs and initiatives.

02

Why does Cents of Community exist?

In 2023, the addition of a bill round up program, or Cents of Community, was one of the bylaw changes members were asked to vote on. More than half of the voting membership voted in favor of the bill round up program. In 2024, the Chugach Board of Directors approved the formation of Cents of Community and the Chugach Electric Association Charitable Foundation.

03

How does Cents of Community work?

Each month, your electric bill will be rounded up to the next whole dollar amount. For example, if your bill is \$85.47, it will be rounded up to \$86.00. The additional \$0.53 will be contributed to Cents of Community. Members will be automatically enrolled to contribute between \$0.01 and \$0.99 each month—an average of just \$6.00 a year.



Last Update: December 2025

PROGRAM STATUS

01

When does the program launch?

The Chugach Board of Directors voted in November 2025 to suspend implementation of the program. The board voted to revisit the decision in three months. The decision follows legal concerns raised by the Alaska Attorney General regarding the utility bill round up program, reversing its longstanding neutral position. The Attorney General's Office previously took no action against similar programs operated by Matanuska Electric Association, Inc. and Golden Valley Electric Association, Inc., for more than 15 years.

While Chugach maintains that the program is legally sound and consistent with cooperative principles, the board determined that suspension at this time is the prudent course of action. Chugach remains committed to the cooperative spirit of "Concern for Community" and to pursuing initiatives that support charitable and community efforts.

ENROLLMENT AND PARTICIPATION

01

Do I need to enroll in the program?

No. Members will be automatically enrolled in the Cents of Community Program.

02

How do I change my program status or unenroll?

Members may choose to unenroll at any time using the dedicated helpline: 907-762-4129. You will need your Chugach account number, found on your most recent bill. Members can also send an email that includes their account number to service@chugachelectric.com.

03

Will I see my contribution on my bill?

Yes. Your monthly bill will display a line item showing the rounded up amount, so you can easily see your contribution.

BILLING AND PAYMENTS

01

How much will I contribute each month?

The amount contributed will vary each month, but it will never exceed \$0.99 per account. On average, members with one account will contribute around \$6 per year.

02

Are contributions to Cents of Community tax deductible?

Contributions may be tax deductible. Please consult with a tax advisor to determine eligibility.

03

Can I be in the Cents of Community Program and on Budget Billing?

Yes. If you're on Budget Billing, you have a budget bill amount (whole dollar) that you pay every month, even if your actual bill is a little bit more or less. If you're enrolled in Budget Billing and the Cents of Community program, your actual bill will be rounded up to the next dollar, and those extra cents will be added to your budget bill amount, thus you will no longer see a whole dollar amount associated with your budget bill.

For example, if you have a budget bill amount of \$100, but use a little less that month and your actual bill is \$89.75. The actual bill gets rounded to the next whole dollar –to \$90.00. That extra \$0.25 goes to Cents of Community Program and your bill amount becomes \$100.25. In summary, if you're enrolled in both programs, your monthly bill won't always be a fixed whole number—it will fall within a small range, up to 99¢ higher than your usual Budget Billing amount.

WHO MANAGES THE MONEY?

01

Who manages the contributions?

The Chugach Electric Association Charitable Foundation (Foundation) was established to oversee and manage funds raised through the Cents of Community program, including the review of grant applications and the selection of award recipients. A seven-member volunteer Board of Trustees, comprised of Chugach members, was appointed in late summer 2025 to manage the Foundation.

02

How do I become a Trustee?

When there is an open Board of Trustee position, applications and guidelines will be posted to the Cents of Community webpage on the Chugach Electric website.

WHO GETS THE MONEY?

01

What types of organizations does Cents of Community support?

Funds collected from Cents of Community are used to support 501(c)(3) charitable organizations in the Chugach service area. Political and religious purposes are not eligible. Grants will not be awarded to individuals or for payment of electric bills.

02

How can my organization apply for a grant?

The first opportunity to apply for grants is anticipated to be in 2026. Grant applications and guidelines will be posted to the Cents of Community webpage on the Chugach Electric website.

03

What is the anticipated amount for each grant?

The Board of Trustees will determine grant size, grant terms, restrictions, and opportunities. Once the grant process is developed it will be available on our Cents of Community webpage.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

01

How does the program support the community?

Through the Cents of Community program, small contributions add up to big impact—offering not only financial support for local organizations, but also helping build a stronger sense of community among our members.

Cents of Community is a simple way to support your community. Just a few cents each month can make a significant difference. Together, we can achieve much more than we can individually. On average, a member with one account contributes \$6 annually, which is 50 cents per month.

02

How much impact will my contributions make?

While your individual contribution may seem small (averaging about \$6 per year, per account), when combined with thousands of other members, the impact becomes significant! Together, we can generate substantial funds for local charitable organizations. These funds will also contribute to the administration costs of the Foundation, such as accounting, banking and auditing services.

MORE INFORMATION

01

Where can I find more information and updates?

Visit our Cents of Community webpage at the following URL:
www.chugachelectric.com/centsofcommunity

Or scan the QR Code:

