



Frequently Asked Questions

What is UCEMC Cares?

UCEMC Cares, Inc. is a state-chartered, nonprofit corporation separate from Upper Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation (UCEMC). UCEMC Cares is powered by members who choose to round up their monthly electric bill to the nearest dollar. That extra change is small, often just pennies, but together it enables us to support local nonprofit organizations.

How does it affect my bill?

UCEMC members may opt-in to the tax-deductible program and round up their bill to the next dollar (a \$143.75 bill becomes \$144.00). UCEMC Cares, Inc. will use this spare change to assist qualified organizations and causes. The funds raised from the UCEMC Cares program will have a long-lasting, positive impact on our communities.

How do I join?

UCEMC members may join or “opt-in” to the UCEMC Cares program by contacting their local UCEMC office at 1-800-261-2940 or visiting ucemc.com and clicking on the member portal. Once a member signs up for the program, UCEMC rounds up the monthly bills of participants to the next dollar – with the average member donating less than \$6.00 annually. So please opt-in and round-up today!

What does it cost?

It rounds your monthly electric bill up to the next whole dollar. Most members give about \$6 a year, or about 1 sandwich from a restaurant or 1 coffee shop drink.

How will UCEMC Cares funds be used?

Contributions from members go back into the communities UCEMC serves in grants to qualified organizations serving our members' health, safety, civic and educational needs. For example, school-related booster/ athletic clubs, PTO, historical societies, community centers, food banks, libraries, volunteer fire departments, veterans' associations, rescue squads, senior centers, youth camps, etc. Each month, you can see the list of recipients on our website <https://www.ucemc.com/this-month-s-ucemc-cares-grant-recipients/>

Where does the money go?

100% of funds remain in the UCEMC service area, and UCEMC collects no administration or management fees. None of the money collected goes for political purposes or to pay electric bills. Instead, every penny shared makes lives better in our communities. Every penny you give makes a difference!

How do I know how much of my bill is going to UCEMC Cares?

Your monthly billing statement will have a line item titled UCEMC Cares and the amount of the round-up. In addition, your bill will list the total amount you have donated on that same line for tax purposes. Donations are tax-deductible.

What if I change my mind later?

If you want to join later, just call any local UCEMC office and we would be happy to sign you up.

A member may choose to discontinue the round-up of their bills at any time by contacting UCEMC.

How does my organization qualify/apply for a UCEMC Cares grant?

Charitable organizations serving the UCEMC service area with health, safety, and educational needs can apply for a grant. The organization does not have to be a 501c3. To apply for a grant, download the application at ucemc.com, submit the completed application via the instructions and return. Or, visit your UCEMC District office and pick up a grant application.

Can an organization receive multiple grants per year?

Yes, organizations can apply for UCEMC Cares grants each month. Organizations can receive up to \$10,000 in grants in 1 fiscal year.

Who decides what organizations or groups will receive grants?

The UCEMC Cares Board of Directors reviews applications and decides which organizations qualify for grants. (The UCEMC Cares board is not affiliated with, nor to be confused with, the UCEMC Board of Directors).

What is the UCEMC Cares board of directors?

The UCEMC Cares Board of Directors is a volunteer (not paid) group of five UCEMC members selected from each district of the Upper Cumberland Electric service area. This group of Directors will represent the communities in which they live and distribute grants to qualified groups across the entire UCEMC service area. The board of directors have a 3-year term, and cannot serve more than 6 consecutive years.

Pennies alone won't go far, but when combined with spare change from other UCEMC members... that money can change a lot! Sign-up to round-up today.