

STATE OF MICHIGAN

BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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In the matter, on the Commission’s own motion,)
regarding administration and operation of the)
Low-Income and Energy Efficiency Fund.)
_____)

Case No. U-13129

At the November 19, 2010 meeting of the Michigan Public Service Commission in Lansing,
Michigan.

PRESENT: Hon. Orjiakor N. Isiogu, Chairman
Hon. Monica Martinez, Commissioner
Hon. Greg R. White, Commissioner

AMENDATORY ORDER

On August 30, 2010, the Commission approved a number of grants from the Low-Income and Energy Efficiency Fund (LIEEF). The order awarded a total of \$55 million to eight organizations to provide energy assistance to low-income households throughout the state.

It is anticipated that Michigan will again see an unprecedented increase in the number of households seeking help with heating bills. Due to the high unemployment rate and loss of jobs in the state, many households that have never requested help are seeking assistance with their utility bills. There is also a good possibility that the funding the State of Michigan receives annually from the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) will be substantially less than last year. In anticipation of the potential decrease in LIHEAP funding, the Michigan Department of Human Services has decreased its fiscal year 2011 household caps for energy services provided by the State Emergency Relief Program. For these reasons, the Commission

finds that an urgent need exists to make additional funding available to help the increasing number of low-income households manage their utility bills.

The Commission finds that it is reasonable and in the public interest to amend its August 30, 2010 order in this docket to increase the amount of funding awarded from the LIEEF to assist low-income households with heating bills from \$55 million to \$58 million. The additional \$3 million in funding will be divided among the eight organizations awarded grants as follows: Department of Human Services – \$1,909,200; Downriver Community Conference – \$54,600; Lighthouse Emergency Services – \$16,500; Michigan Community Action Agency Association – \$163,500; Newaygo County Community Services – \$163,500; Society of St. Vincent de Paul – \$27,300; The Heat and Warmth Fund – \$327,300; and The Salvation Army – \$338,100.

Ordering paragraph A of the August 30, 2010 order shall be amended to increase the amount of funds awarded from the LIEEF for low-income energy assistance from \$55 million to \$58 million as follows:

- Department of Human Services - \$36,909,200 to supplement the energy crisis portion of the State Emergency Relief program that will provide direct assistance with energy bills and shut-off protection for low-income households statewide.
- Downriver Community Conference - \$1,054,600 to provide direct assistance with energy bills and shut-off protection for low-income households in Wayne and Monroe counties.
- Lighthouse Emergency Services - \$316,500 to provide direct assistance with energy bills and shut-off protection for low-income households in Oakland county.
- Michigan Community Action Agency Association - \$3,163,500 to provide direct assistance with energy bills and shut-off protection for low-income households statewide.
- Newaygo County Community Services - \$3,163,500 to provide direct assistance with energy bills and shut-off protection for low-income households in Benzie, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Missaukee, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, and Wexford counties.

- Society of St. Vincent de Paul - \$527,300 to provide direct assistance with energy bills and shut-off protection for low-income households in Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, Lapeer, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties.
- The Heat and Warmth Fund - \$6,327,300 to provide direct assistance with energy bills and shut-off protection for low-income households throughout the state.
- The Salvation Army - \$6,538,100 to provide direct assistance with energy bills and shut-off protection for low-income households statewide.

The Commission directs the Commission Staff to obtain amendments to the grant agreement documents with the grantees. If additional time is needed to distribute the funds, grantees may request that the amendment documents include an extension of the current grant term until September 30, 2011. When revising the budget to include additional funding, the proportion of funds budgeted for administrative and indirect costs must remain the same or less than originally requested. Grantees will receive an advance of the additional funding no later than May 1, 2011. As always, the additional funding is contingent upon review and approval of the State Administrative Board.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

A. Ordering paragraph A of the August 30, 2010 order in this docket is amended to increase the amount of funds awarded from the Low-Income and Energy Efficiency Fund for low-income energy assistance from \$55 million to \$58 million as follows:

- Department of Human Services - \$36,909,200 to supplement the energy crisis portion of the State Emergency Relief program that will provide direct assistance with energy bills and shut-off protection for low-income households statewide.
- Downriver Community Conference - \$1,054,600 to provide direct assistance with energy bills and shut-off protection for low-income households in Wayne and Monroe counties.
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- Michigan Community Action Agency Association - \$3,163,500 to provide direct assistance with energy bills and shut-off protection for low-income households statewide.
- Newaygo County Community Services - \$3,163,500 to provide direct assistance with energy bills and shut-off protection for low-income households in Benzie, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Missaukee, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, and Wexford counties.
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- The Heat and Warmth Fund - \$6,327,300 to provide direct assistance with energy bills and shut-off protection for low-income households throughout the state.
- The Salvation Army - \$6,538,100 to provide direct assistance with energy bills and shut-off protection for low-income households statewide.

B. The Commission Staff shall obtain necessary amendments to the grant agreement documents with the grantees.

The Commission reserves jurisdiction and may issue further orders as necessary.

Any party desiring to appeal this order must do so in the appropriate court within 30 days after issuance and notice of this order, pursuant to MCL 462.26.

MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Orjiakor N. Isiogu, Chairman

Monica Martinez, Commissioner

Greg R. White, Commissioner

By its action of November 19, 2010.

Mary Jo Kunkle, Executive Secretary

In the matter, on the Commission's own motion,)
regarding administration and operation of the)
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_____)

Case No. U-13129

Suggested Minute:

Case No. U-13129 involves an amendment to the Commission's August 30, 2010 order in this docket awarding \$55 million in energy assistance grants from the Low-Income and Energy Efficiency Fund to eight organizations. The order before you increases the amount of funds awarded to \$58 million.