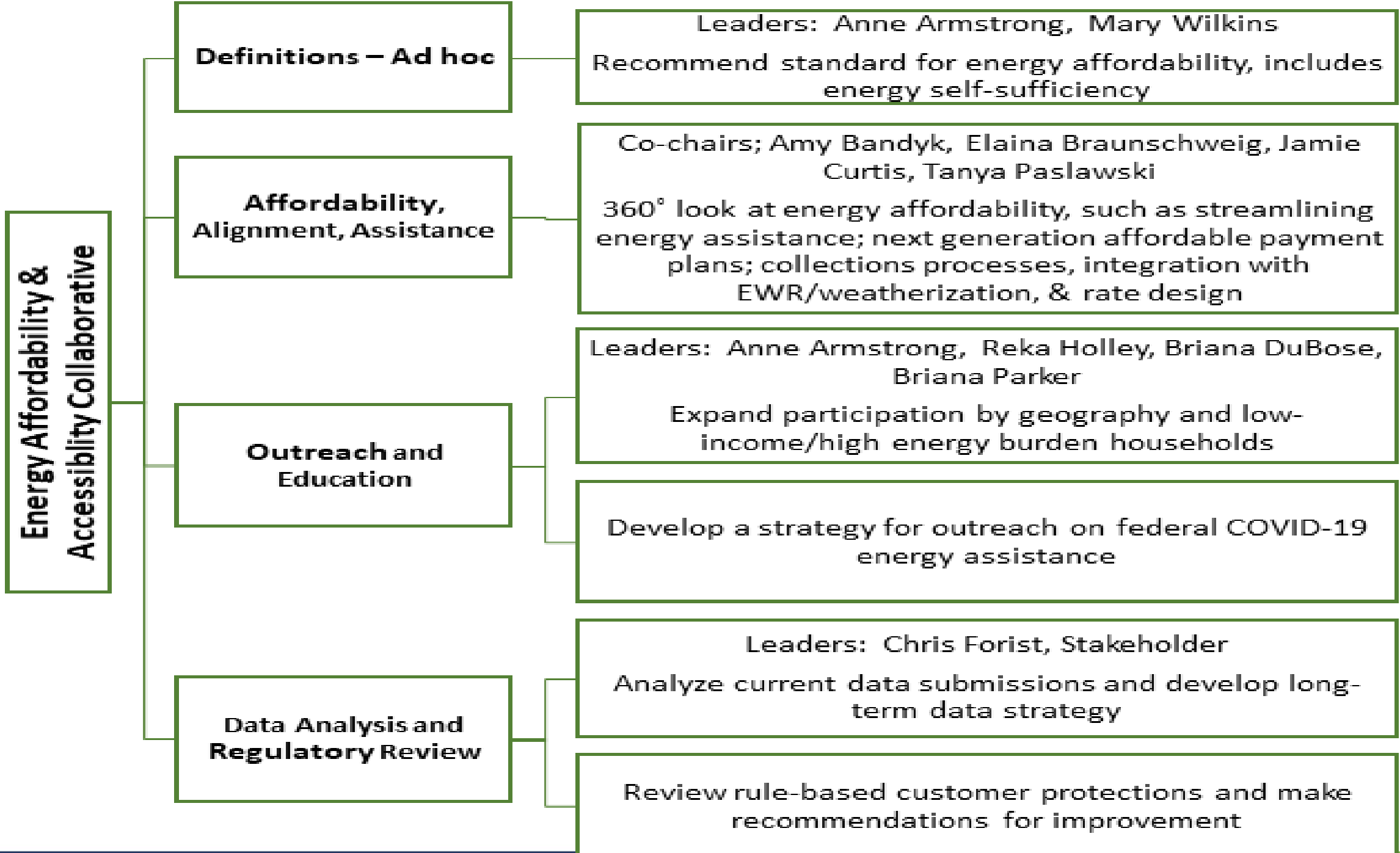


Energy Affordability & Accessibility Collaborative

July 21, 2021

<p>10:00 a.m. 5 min</p>	<p>Welcome/Agenda Review</p>	<p>Anne Armstrong - MPSC</p>
<p>10:05 a.m. 15 min</p>	<p>Guiding Values Outreach & Education Subcommittee sign-up</p>	<p>Briana Parker – Elevate Briana DuBose – EcoWorks Eiffel Bayaban - Elevate</p>
<p>10:20 a.m. 20 min</p>	<p>Utility Arrearage and Shutoff Data Site</p>	<p>Anne Armstrong – MPSC Jake Thelen - MPSC</p>
<p>10:40 a.m. 5 min</p>	<p>Break/Quiz</p>	
<p>10:45 a.m. 40 min</p>	<p>Federal and State Energy Assistance Programs in Michigan</p>	<p>Moderator: Karen Gould - MPSC Panelists: Kelly Rose - MSHDA Tammy Bair - MDHHS Wanda Jones - MPSC Elaina Braunschweig – MPSC</p>
<p>11:25 a.m. 30 min</p>	<p>A National Discussion: How States Approach Energy Affordability</p>	<p>Moderator: Tanya Paslawski – 5 Lakes Energy Panelists: David Carroll - Apprise, Inc. Katrina Metzler - NEUAC</p>
<p>11:55 a.m. 5 min</p>	<p>Next Steps</p>	<p>Anne Armstrong - MPSC</p>
<p>12:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p>	



EAAC Charge

To implement the Commission recommendations from the February 18, 2021 U-20757 order and to file the first interim report to the docket on 12/17/2021.

Priorities stated in the order are:

- Ongoing COVID-19 response
- Affordable Energy Bills: Explore the adoption of a common definition of energy affordability and energy self-sufficiency with the goal of reducing the number of households in Michigan with unsustainable energy burdens
- Simplifying the energy assistance/energy waste reduction (EWR) application and eligibility process
- Affordable payment plans (APPs)
- Structures for EWR and energy assistance linkages
- Data collection, transparency, and analysis
- Review of rule-based protections
- Communication and engagement

MPSC Expectations

The foundation of this work group is to create an environment where broad and varied input is made possible to provide guidance to the Commission in making formal policy decisions on energy affordability and accessibility. Staff is committed to achieving consensus when possible. Staff is ultimately responsible for making final recommendations including accurately reflecting participant input and writing reports based on the group discussion.

Guiding Values

Outreach & Education Subcommittee

Briana Parker – Elevate

Briana DuBose – EcoWorks

Eiffel Bayaban - Elevate



ELEVATE



Guiding Values Segment

Agenda

- **Welcome** (Eiffel Bayaban)
- **Introduction to Guiding Value:** Advancing Racial & Economic Justice (Briana Dubose)
- **Let's Work together!:** How can we advance racial & economic justice in practice? (Briana Dubose)
- **Implementation Example:** Dr. Robert Bullard on Racial Justice (Eiffel Bayaban)
- **Outreach & Engagement:** Subcommittee Pitch (Briana Parker)



Welcome

Briana DuBose,
Director of Strategic
Community Initiatives,
EcoWorks Detroit

Briana Parker
Policy Manager,
Elevate

Eiffel Bayaban
Policy Intern,
Elevate



WELCOME



Guiding Value: Advance Racial & Economic Justice

- Racial justice is the systematic fair treatment of people of all races that results in equitable opportunities and outcomes for everyone. All people are able to achieve their full potential in life, regardless of race, ethnicity or the community in which they live.
- A “racial justice” framework can move us from a reactive posture to a more powerful, proactive and even preventive approach. Learn the importance of leadership development for racial justice and how to develop and support leaders that contribute to the movement in *Leadership and Race*.



Let's Work Together

- Define?
- What are barriers?
- How can we advance racial & economic justice in practice?



Implementation Example : Stop at 4:52 minutes



Outreach & Engagement Subcommittee Pitch



Michigan Public Service Commission U-20757 Data: History & Public Access Site

Anne Armstrong-Cusack, Director
Customer Assistance Division

Jake Thelen, Departmental Specialist
Customer Assistance Division

7/21/2021





COVID-19 Response: U-20757 (4/15/20)

MPSC orders Regulated Utilities to file bi-weekly the following information:

- Efforts made to determine the number of occupied residences in the utility's service territory without natural gas or electric service.
- Number of occupied residences within the utility's service territory that do not have natural gas or electric service due to non-payment.
- Number of occupied residences that do not have natural gas or electric service due to unauthorized use, safety, access or other issues.
- Actions taken to reconnect natural gas or electric services to occupied residences, particularly to low-income and elderly customers.



COVID-19 Response: U-20757 (5/20/20)

- MPSC submits revised reporting form on the docket
- Regulated utilities still required submit shut-off data every 2 weeks.
- Arrearage Data required to be reported by number of customers and by total dollar amounts.
 - 6-30 days in arrears enrolled in payment plan and not enrolled in a payment plan
 - 60+ days in arrears enrolled in a payment plan and not enrolled in a payment plan
 - 90+ days in arrears enrolled in a payment plan and not enrolled in a payment plan

Note: Arrearage data also broken down by low-income/senior customers and non-low-income customers



COVID-19 Response: U-20757 (7/23/20)

- Called on its staff, regulated utilities and stakeholders to continue customer outreach, data collection, and program enhancements to provide adequate safeguards in an uncertain future.
- A new data collection form is created.
- Shutoff and arrearage data to be submitted monthly starting October 10, 2020.
- Arrearage data buckets change
 - 6-30 days in arrears
 - 31-60 days in arrears
 - 61-90 days in arrears
 - 91 + days in arrears



COVID-19 Response: U-20757 (6/30/21)

- Staff launches public data page.
- Data that was previously only available on the docket is now available on the MPSC website in a more analyzable format.
https://www.michigan.gov/mpsc/0,9535,7-395-93309_93438_93459-561128--,00.html



Any Questions



Jake Thelen

thelenj7@michigan.gov

Michigan Public Service
Commission

1-800-292-9555

www.michigan.gov/mpsc



Break/Quiz

- See link in chat
- [EAAC Quiz - July 21, 2021 Survey \(surveymonkey.com\)](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/eaac-quiz-july-21-2021)
 - Results posted on screen and in link in chat

Federal and State Energy Assistance Programs in Michigan

Moderator: Karen Gould - MPSC

Panelists:

Kelly Rose - MSHDA

Tammy Bair – MDHHS

Elaina Braunschweig – MPSC

Wanda Jones – MPSC



COVID Emergency Rental Assistance

www.Michigan.gov/cera

Kelly Rose, Chief Housing Solutions Officer



Tenant Eligibility

- CERA tenants can be up to 80% AMI
- Households must have experienced a hardship during COVID
 - Unemployment
 - Decreased Income
 - Increased Expenses
 - Other Financial Hardship
- Be at risk of homelessness or housing instability
 - Past-due rent or utility notice/statement

Rental Assistance Benefit

- Up to 50% AMI—up to 12 months of rental assistance
 - Included within the 12 months, 3-months can be future rent assistance
- 50-80% AMI—up to 10 months of rental assistance
 - Included within the 10 months, 3-months can be future rent assistance
- Tenants may apply for an additional 3-months of rental assistance if necessary for housing stability
 - Income must be reassessed
- Rent is limited to 150% of FMR
- Up to \$400 of late fees and \$150 of court costs

Internet Assistance Benefit

- Tenants may receive an Internet stipend if they request it and provide a recent internet statement/bill
- Internet Stipend will be \$300 (\$50/month for six months)
- Payment will be made directly to the tenant

Utility Assistance Benefit

- CERA can pay for electricity, any type of home heating, water, sewer and trash
 - Trash will only be paid if it is paid along with water or sewer
 - An additional \$500 may be paid for households under 50% AMI if needed to fully pay all utility arrearages.

Household Size	Maximum Total One Time Utility Payment (Includes Future Payment)	Maximum Future Utility Payment as a Credit
1-2 persons	\$1,500	\$300
3-4 persons	\$2,000	\$500
5+ persons	\$2,500	\$500

Application Process

- Online application portal
 - www.michigan.gov/cera
 - Either tenant or landlord can initiate the application
 - Paper application process will still be available
- Imminent eviction cases will be prioritized for processing
- Public dashboard will launch later this month
- As of 7/19, over \$95 million in financial assistance has been paid for about 13,100 households



LIHEAP Overview

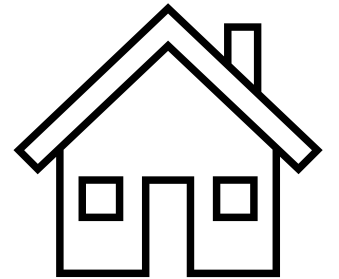
Presented by: Tammy Bair

Email address: Bairt.Michigan.gov



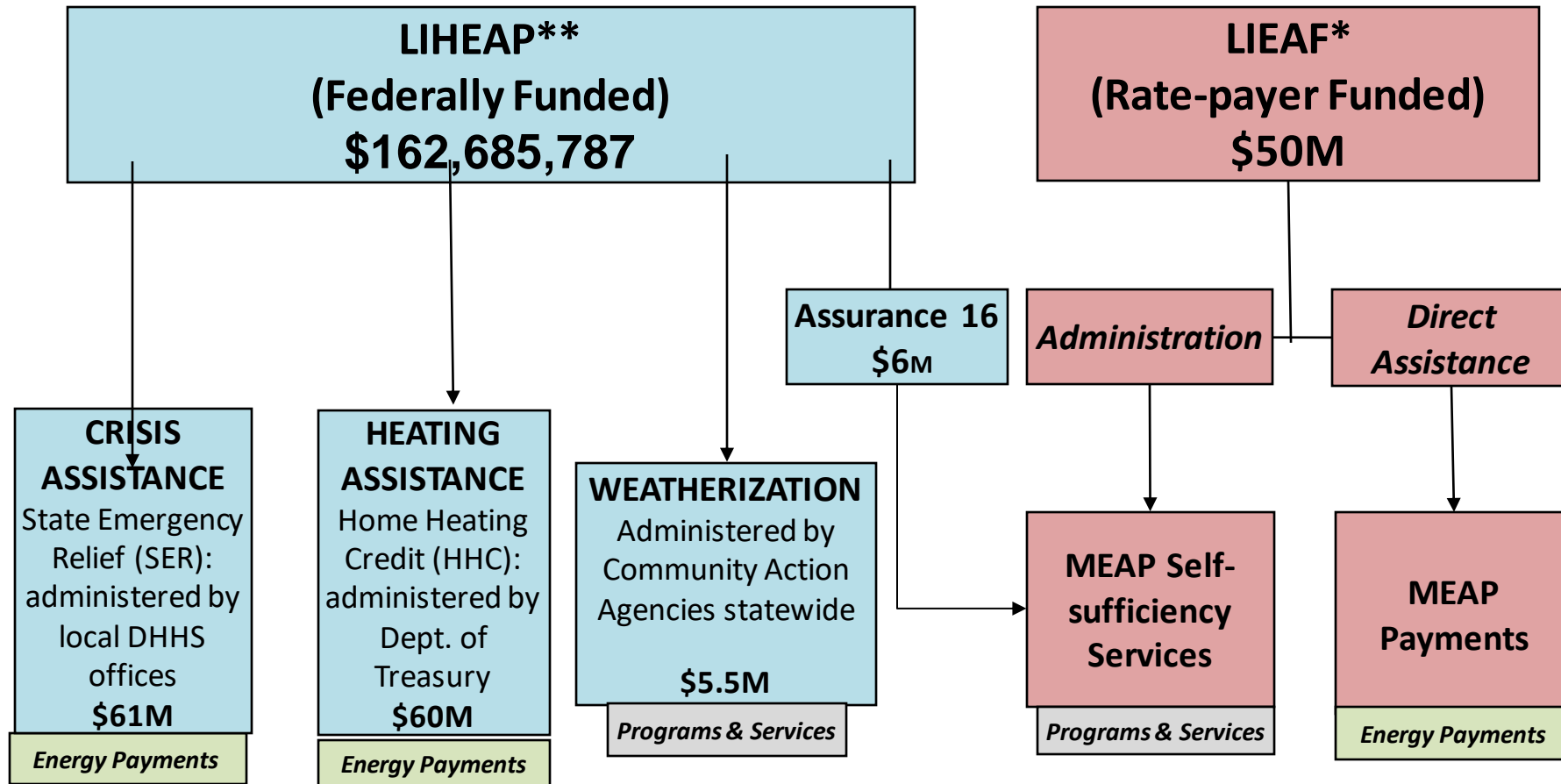
Topics

- FY2021 Energy Assistance Funding Distribution
- Supplemental LIHEAP Funding
- State Emergency Relief
- Home Heating Credit
- Weatherization
- Assurance 16





FY21 Energy Assistance Funding Distribution



*Low Income Energy Assistance Fund

**Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program



Supplemental LIHEAP

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

- MI FY2020 allocation - \$35,130,421.00
- Funding has been fully utilized

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act

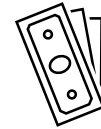
- MI FY2021 allocation - \$238,219,248
- Funding has not been appropriated by the legislature yet
- Expected to be used to expand existing LIHEAP programs



State Emergency Relief (SER)

SER is a crisis intervention program and is offered year-round. SER does not provide ongoing benefits like other MDHHS benefits such as SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, etc.

SER Services Funded by LIHEAP:



Income Eligibility = 150% FPL

Heating Fuel

Electricity



Asset limit = \$15,000

Furnace Repair/Replacement

Applications are available in paper and online at [MI Bridges \(michigan.gov\)](https://michigan.gov/MI-Bridges)

Coordination with MEAP

A household receiving SER for heating fuel or electricity qualify for additional services & assistance through MEAP.



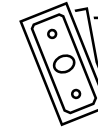
Home Heating Credit (HHC)

HHC is Michigan's preventative LIHEAP benefit and is administered by the Department of Treasury. Applications are accepted from the time tax forms become available through September 30 each year.

Eligibility Criteria:

- ✓ Income
- ✓ Number of Exemptions
- ✓ Household Heating Costs

Income Eligibility = 110% FPL



Application form is the MI-1040CR-7

[2020 MICHIGAN Home Heating Credit Claim MI-1040CR-7](#)

Applications are mailed to households that received HHC for the previous Tax Year.

A household does NOT have to file taxes in order to apply for or qualify for HHC.

More information, including instructions for completing the application, can be found online, under Individual Income Tax at [Taxes - Forms \(michigan.gov\)](#).



Weatherization

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) is administered by MDHHS' Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity (BCAEO). Weatherization is funded with both Department of Energy (DOE) funding and LIHEAP.

The primary purpose of the Weatherization Program:

“...to increase the energy efficiency of dwellings owned or occupied by low-income persons, reduce their total residential energy expenditures, and improve their health and safety, especially low-income persons who are particularly vulnerable, such as the elderly, the disabled, and children.”



There are 25 Community Action Agencies (CAAs) that provide weatherization services statewide.

michigan.gov MDHHS - Energy & Weatherization

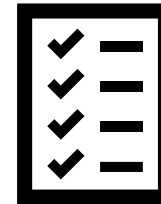


Assurance 16

Up to 5% can be spent on services that encourage and enable households to reduce their home energy needs (and thereby the need for energy assistance), including needs assessment counseling, and assistance with energy vendors.

To achieve this goal, MEAP Grantees offer the following services to participating households:

- Needs assessment and referral information
- Financial education activities
- Energy education activities
- Vendor advocacy
- Long or short-term case management plan



Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP)

Energy Affordability and Accessibility Collaborative

Wanda Clavon Jones, MEAP Manager

MPSC - Customer Assistance Division

July 21, 2021



Michigan Public Service Commission



MEAP Foundation

Public Act 615 of 2012 (March 28, 2013)

- Created the Michigan Energy Assistance Act that requires the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to establish and administer the Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP).
- The purpose of the MEAP is to establish and administer programs statewide that provide energy assistance and self-sufficiency services to eligible low-income households.
 - Michigan Public Service Commission(MPSC)-MEAP Section performs administrative duties through an Inter-Agency Agreement with MDHHS.

Senate Bill 451 (August 20, 2019)

- PA 87 Extended the Michigan Energy Assistance Act that established the MEAP until Sept. 30, 2023.



Continued: MEAP Foundation

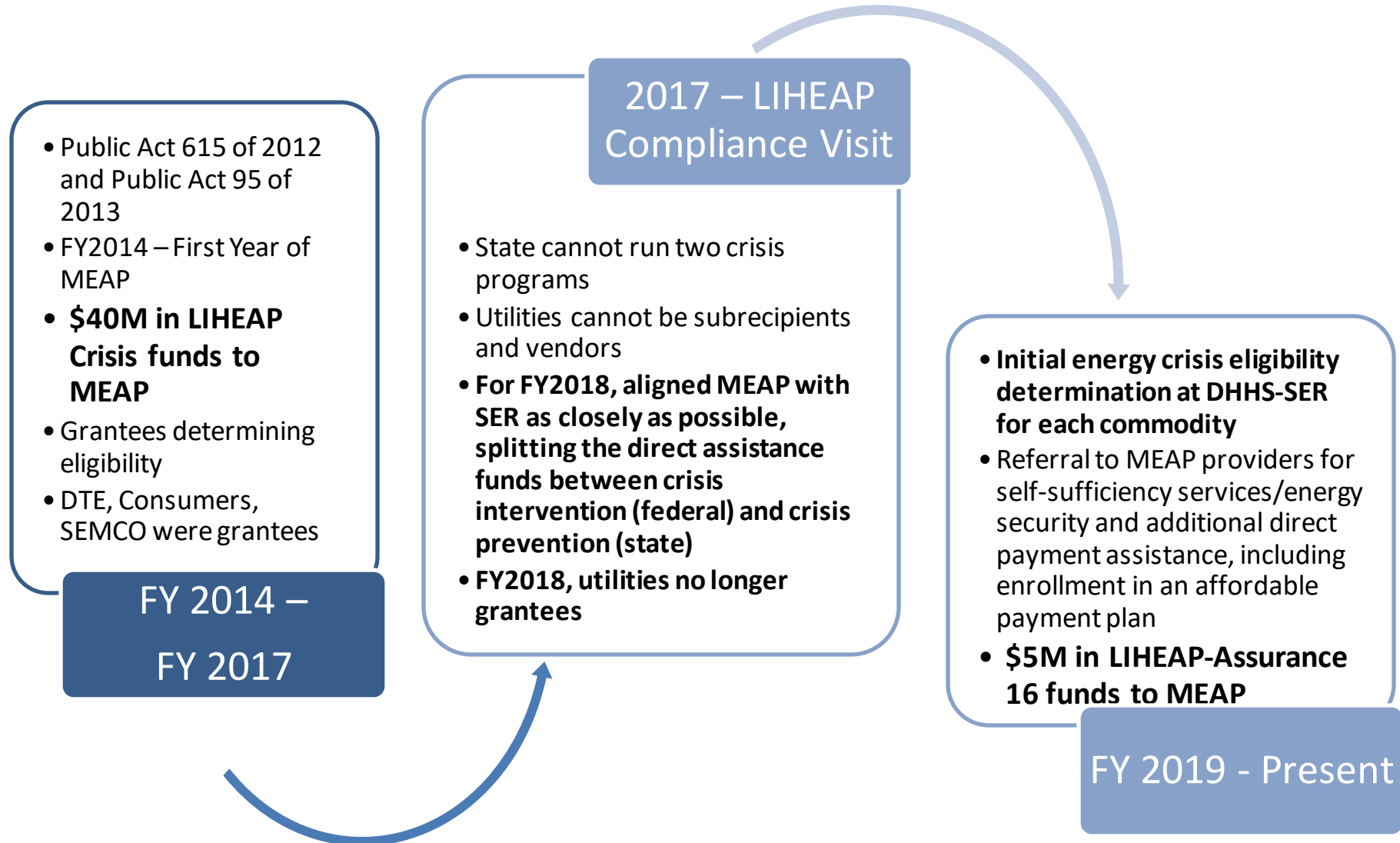
Public Act 95 of 2013 (July 1, 2013)

- Created the Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund (LIEAF), charging MDHHS with expending money from the fund as provided by the Michigan Energy Assistance Act.
- The Act allows the MPSC to annually approve a low-income energy assistance funding factor, not to exceed \$50,000,000, to support the LIEAF.
 - On July 2, 2021 the MPSC asked for comments on its proposal to set the funding factor for Michigan's Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund at 87 cents ([Case No. U-17377](#)), a decrease of 4 cents from the previous year.
 - On July 23, 2020, in [Case No. U-17377](#), the MPSC adopted a funding factor of 91 cents per meter per month for all Michigan electric utilities that have opted to participate in the funding of the LIEAF, effective for the September 2020 billing month.
 - Electric cooperatives, municipal electric utilities, & investor-owned electric utilities are able to participate in funding LIEAF.
 - Electric utilities that opt-out of collecting the funding factor may not shut off service to any residential customer from November 1 to April 15 for nonpayment of a delinquent account.

Current Goals

- Steward tax and rate payer dollars
- Provide compassionate service
- Increase ease of access
- Coordinate various energy assistance programs and prioritize to most vulnerable populations
- Develop creative methods for targeting underserved or special population households (e.g. low/fixed income, higher than average energy usage, non-metered fuel use)
- Achieve targeted, population-specific metrics of energy security

MEAP Timeline



FY 2022 Program Changes

- Tiered approach to providing services
 - Triage applicants into similar cohorts
 - Allows for targeted service delivery
 - More robust data collection and evaluation
 - Process changes will begin in FY22 and progress yearly toward full implementation
 - Grantee capacity building primary focus for FY22
- Refined reporting schedule and auditing process

Energy Assistance Services

- Assurance 16 funding covers expenses directly related to the delivery of energy assistance self-sufficiency activities
- Allowable activities include:
 - Needs assessment and referral
 - Vendor advocacy
 - Energy education and financial counseling
 - Short or long-term case management

Affordable Payment Plans (APP)

Program Details

Alignment

- Work with grantee for enrollment
- FPL Tiers: 20-75%, 76-110%, 111-150%
 - Allow exceptions for households <20% FPL
- Length of enrollment

Variation

- Consumption limits
- Arrearage cap
- Arrears forgiveness
- Customer payment
- Agency/gap payment
- Customer default

APP – Other

- Still working toward a single iteration of APP
- UPPCO and SEMCO use the same model; these plans have a higher rate of success (as defined by customers making monthly payments and not defaulting)
- Great Lakes Energy has been working with one grantee to implement the same model APP as UPPCO and SEMCO
- Pilot APP for propane or other deliverable fuels
- Goal is to unify the APP process so that other natural gas and electric companies can more easily participate

2021 MEAP Workgroup

- The MPSC/MDHHS meet monthly with the MEAP Workgroup
- Workgroup Consist of: Current Grantees (9), Utilities with MEAP APPs & ICF (Moderator)
- Subcommittee work:
 - Propane Pilot
 - APP Pilot targeting 0-19% FPL households
 - Defined self-sufficiency and began looking at evaluation models
- Continuous discussion on improving the customer experience
- Mural Board activities to solicit anonymous feedback
- Troubleshooting any programmatic issues that arise

Ratepayer-Funded Assistance

Elaina Braunschweig - MPSC



Michigan Public Service Commission

Forms of ratepayer-funded assistance

For customers at or below 150%
of the Federal Poverty Level

RIA

Residential Income Assistance Credit

- Credits the customer the cost of the monthly fixed charge (customer charge)
 - This ranges from about \$7-\$14 depending on the utility
- Enrollment is uncapped
- Working on getting all utilities to offer this as they come in for rate cases

- CE, DTE, I&M, Semco

LIA (Pilot)

- Low Income Assistance Credit
 - Credits the customer \$30 per month.
 - About 17% of RIA-eligible customers can receive this.
 - Enrollment is capped
 - Working on getting all utilities to offer this as they come in for rate cases

- CE, DTE, Semco

PIPP (coming soon)

- Percent-of-Income Payment Plan Pilot
 - Customers pay 6-10% of their income for single and/or dual commodity service depending on the utility.
 - Enrollment is capped
 - Pilots have been proposed for Consumers Energy and DTE Energy
 - Testing it out to determine success before this is rolled out to other utilities

Senior Credit

- Credited half of the monthly customer charge
- No income criteria
- Working on getting all utilities to offer this as they come in for rate cases

Funding and Recovery

- Projected overall credit amounts are included in the calculation of rates
 - Every customer—residential and non-residential—pays for these programs
- Projections for RIA enrollments are meant to reflect the number of credits expected to be disbursed in the test year, whereas LIA enrollments are currently capped at a specific number
- The Commission has allowed some utilities to record the difference between projected and actual credits disbursed to be applied to subsequent years

A National Discussion: How States Approach Energy Affordability

Moderator: Tanya Paslawski – 5 Lakes Energy

Panelists:

David Carroll – Apprise, Inc.

Katrina Metzler - NEUAC

Michigan

LIHEAP FY2019 State Profile

Total Funding Available
\$181,488,371

Funding Available to Tribes*
\$ 1,088,349

Total Households Served
369,270

Income Eligibility Requirements
\$28,325

for a 4-person household

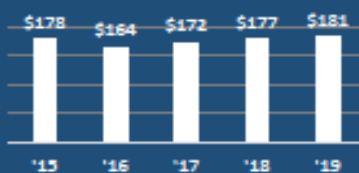
% of State Income-Eligible Population Served

67%

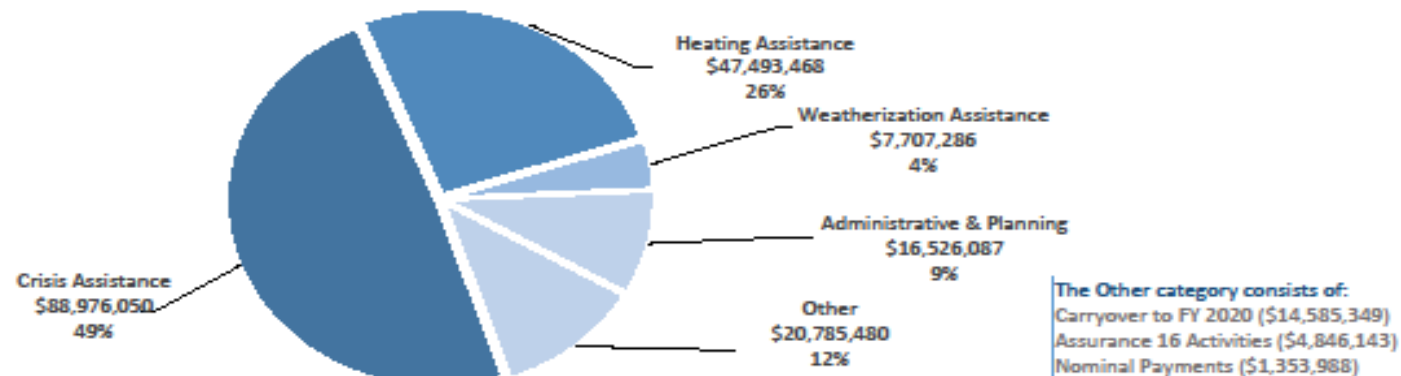
State Income-Eligible Population

551,897

Annual Funds, 2015-2019
(\$ millions)

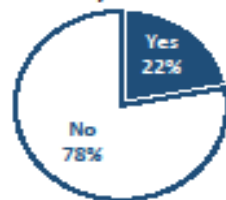


Uses of Funds

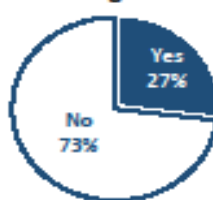


Vulnerable Recipient Households

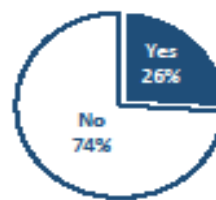
Households with Elderly Member



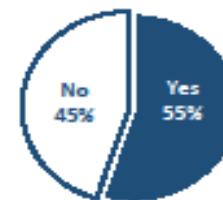
Households with Young Child



Households with Disabled Member



Households with Any Vulnerable Member



Types of Assistance

Heating Assistance served 296,187 households with a reported average benefit of \$160.

Year-Round Crisis Assistance served 71,337 households with a reported average benefit of \$879.

Weatherization Assistance served 2,826 households with a calculated average benefit of \$2,727.

* Funding Available to Tribes is FY2019 direct funding by ACF and is not included in Total Funding Available or Total Households Served.

Data are current as of July 22, 2020
For more information, see <https://liheappm.acf.hhs.gov/>.

Ohio

LIHEAP FY2019 State Profile

Total Funding Available
\$166,245,244

Total Households Served
268,198

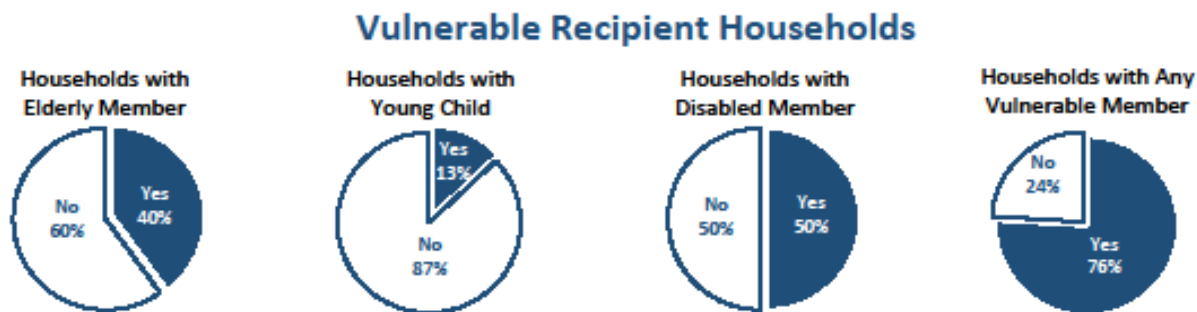
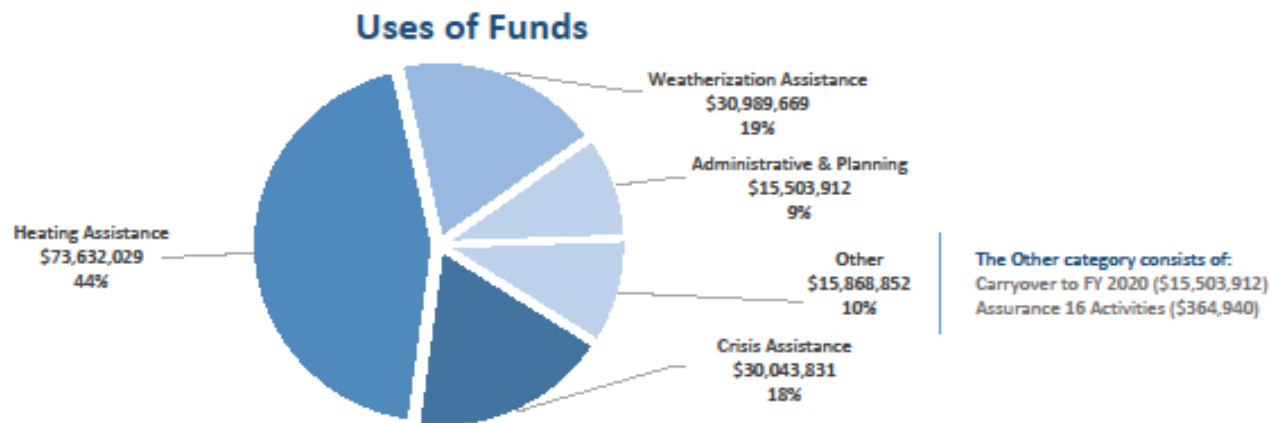
Income Eligibility Requirements
\$43,925
for a 4-person household

% of State Income-Eligible Population Served
19%

State Income-Eligible Population
1,385,358

Annual Funds, 2015-2019
(\$ millions)

Year	Funding (\$ millions)
'15	\$158
'16	\$158
'17	\$150
'18	\$160
'19	\$166



Types of Assistance

Heating Assistance served 258,665 households with a reported average benefit of \$285.
 Winter Crisis Assistance served 85,386 households with a reported average benefit of \$303
 Summer Crisis Assistance served 20,502 households with a reported average benefit of \$205.
 Weatherization Assistance served 3,607 households with a calculated average benefit of \$8,592.

Data are current as of July 22, 2020
 For more information, see <https://liheappm.act.hhs.gov/>.

Illinois

LIHEAP FY2019 State Profile

Total Funding Available
\$182,286,994

Total Households Served
236,371

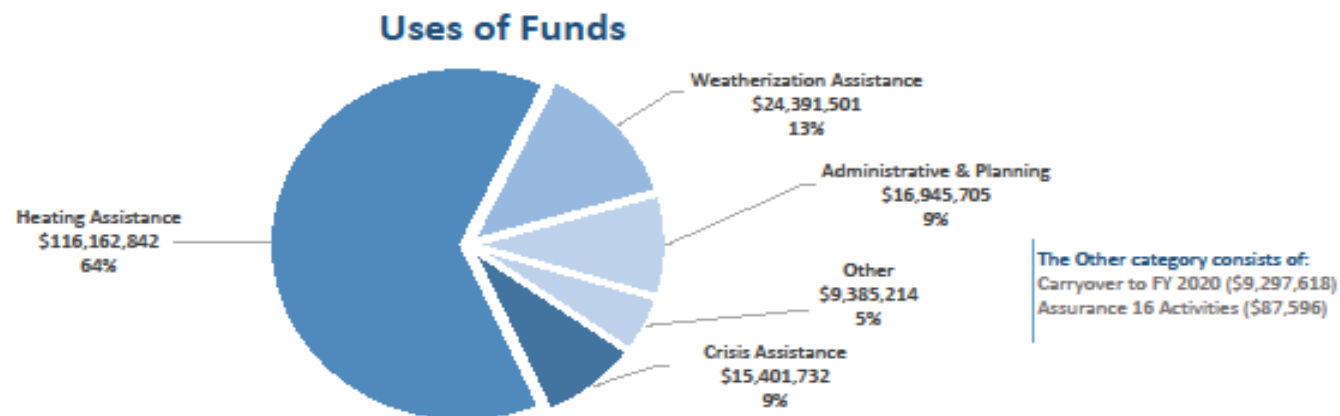
Income Eligibility Requirements
\$37,650
 for a 4-person household

% of State Income-Eligible Population Served
25%

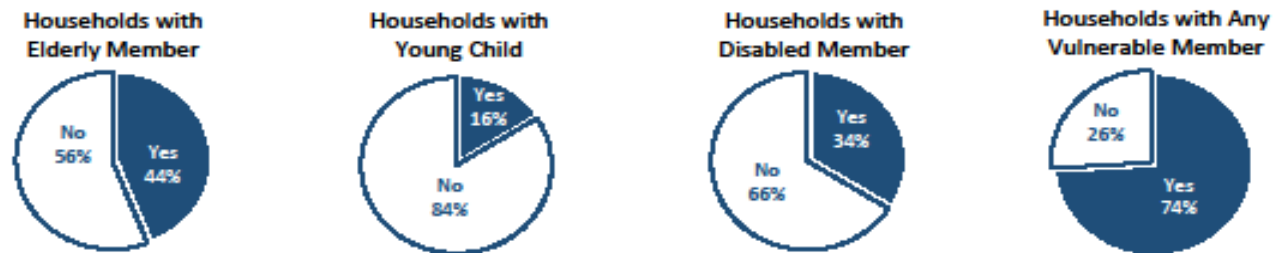
State Income-Eligible Population
932,467

Annual Funds, 2015-2019
 (\$ millions)

Year	Funding (\$ millions)
'15	\$182
'16	\$172
'17	\$178
'18	\$184
'19	\$182



Vulnerable Recipient Households



Types of Assistance

Heating Assistance served 230,336 households with a reported average benefit of \$531.
 Winter Crisis Assistance served 30,518 households with a reported average benefit of \$451.
 Weatherization Assistance served 2,404 households with a calculated average benefit of \$10,146.

Data are current as of July 22, 2020
 For more information, see <https://liheappm.acf.hhs.gov/>

Table 1 - Ratepayer/Taxpayer Funded Energy Assistance

State	Investment in Assistance	Participation Rate	Benefit Levels	Targeting to High Burden	Method	Coordination with LIHEAP
CA	Very High	Very High	Moderate	Low	Rate Discount	Very Low
PA	High	Moderate	High	High	Percent of Income	Very Low
NJ	High	Moderate	High	High	Percent of Income	High
NY	High	High	Moderate	Low	Fixed Benefit	Moderate
MA	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Rate Discount	Moderate
DC	High	Moderate	High	Low	Rate Discount	High

Investment: Very High = Greater than LIHEAP, High = Similar to LIHEAP, Moderate = Less than LIHEAP

Participation Rate: High = 50%+, Moderate = 25% to 50%, Low = <25%

Benefit Levels: High = \$500+, Moderate = \$250 to \$500, Low = < \$250

Table 2 - Ratepayer/Taxpayer Funded Energy Efficiency

State	Investment in Efficiency	Investment per Home	Type of Services	Coordination with LIHEAP/WAP	Measurement and Verification	
CA	Very High	Low	Comprehensive	Low	Episodic	
PA	High	High	Electric / Gas Separate	Low	Systematic	
NJ	High	Moderate	Comprehensive	Low	Episodic	
NY	High	High	Comprehensive	Moderate	Episodic	
MA	Very High	High	Comprehensive	High	Systematic	
DC	Moderate	Moderate	Don't Know	Low	Don't Know	

Investment: Very High = Much Greater than WAP, High = Greater than WAP, Moderate = Similar to WAP

Investment per Home: High = \$7,500+, Moderate = \$2,500-\$7,500, Low = < \$2,500

M&V: Systematic = Annual or Bi-Annual, Episodic = Occurs Regularly but not on a Schedule

QUESTIONS

Next Steps

- EAAC Meetings are the 3rd Wednesday of the month.
- Next Meeting: August 18, 2021, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
 - Commissioner Phillips' perspective on Energy Affordability and Accessibility
 - State Regulatory Approaches to Energy Affordability
 - Subcommittee updates
- Please consider participating in a subcommittee. Sign up through this link:
 - [EAAC Subgroup Sign-up Survey \(surveymonkey.com\)](#)
 - [EAAC Website](#)

Thank You for Participating

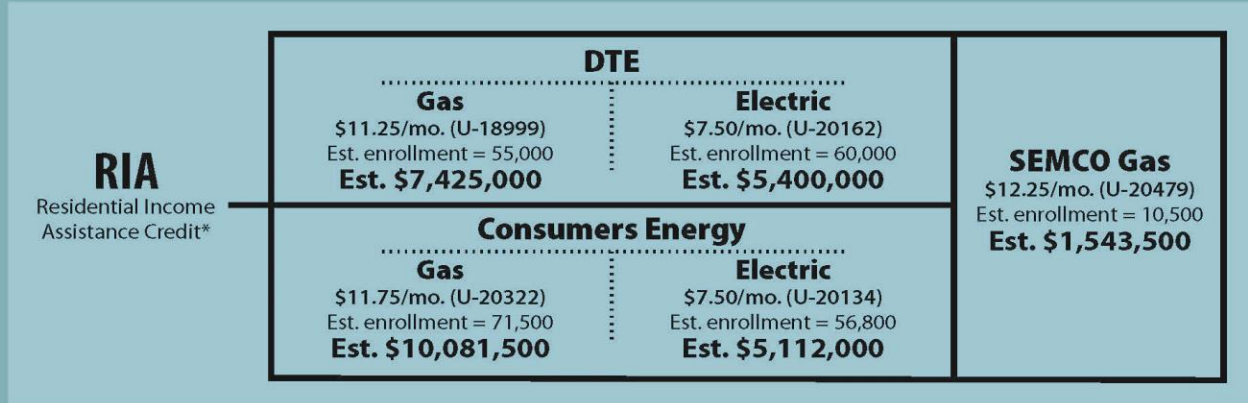
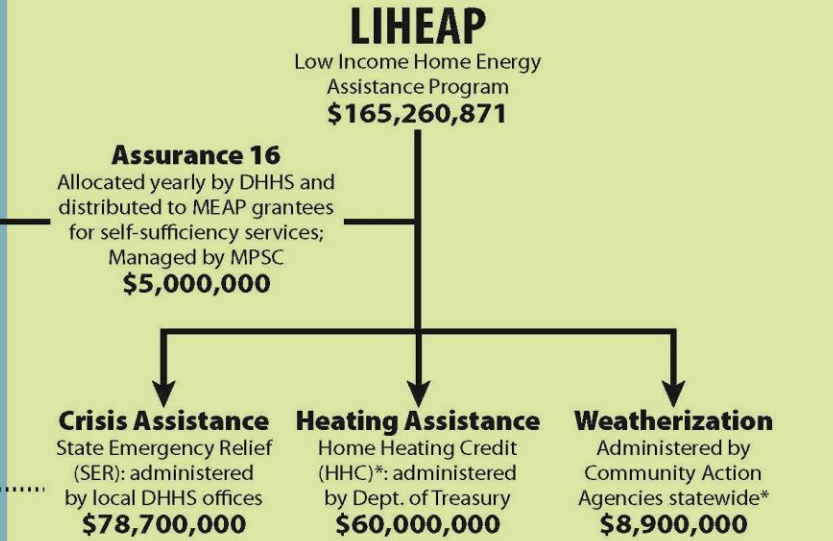
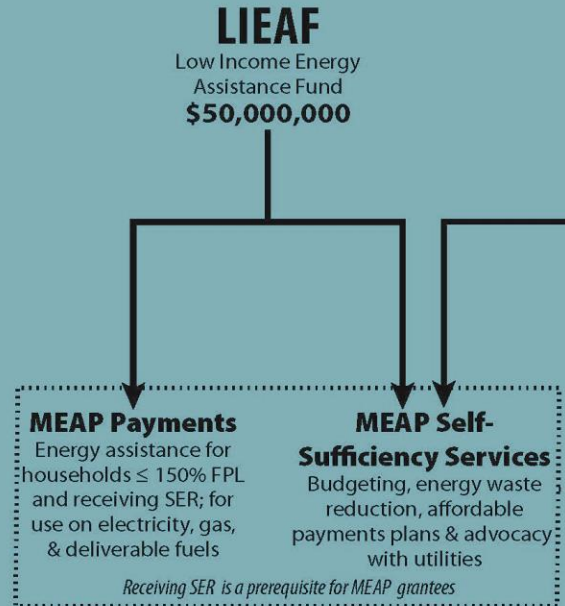
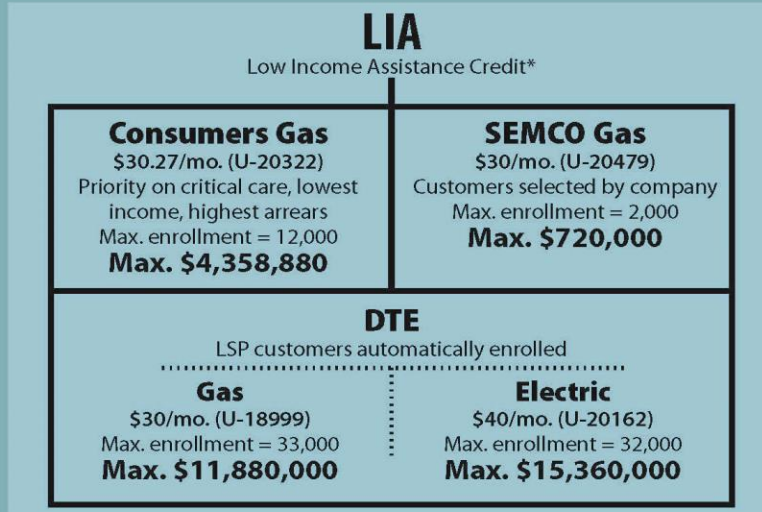
Anne Armstrong – armstronga3@michigan.gov



FY19 ENERGY ASSISTANCE FUNDING & LOW INCOME CREDITS

Rate-Payer Funded

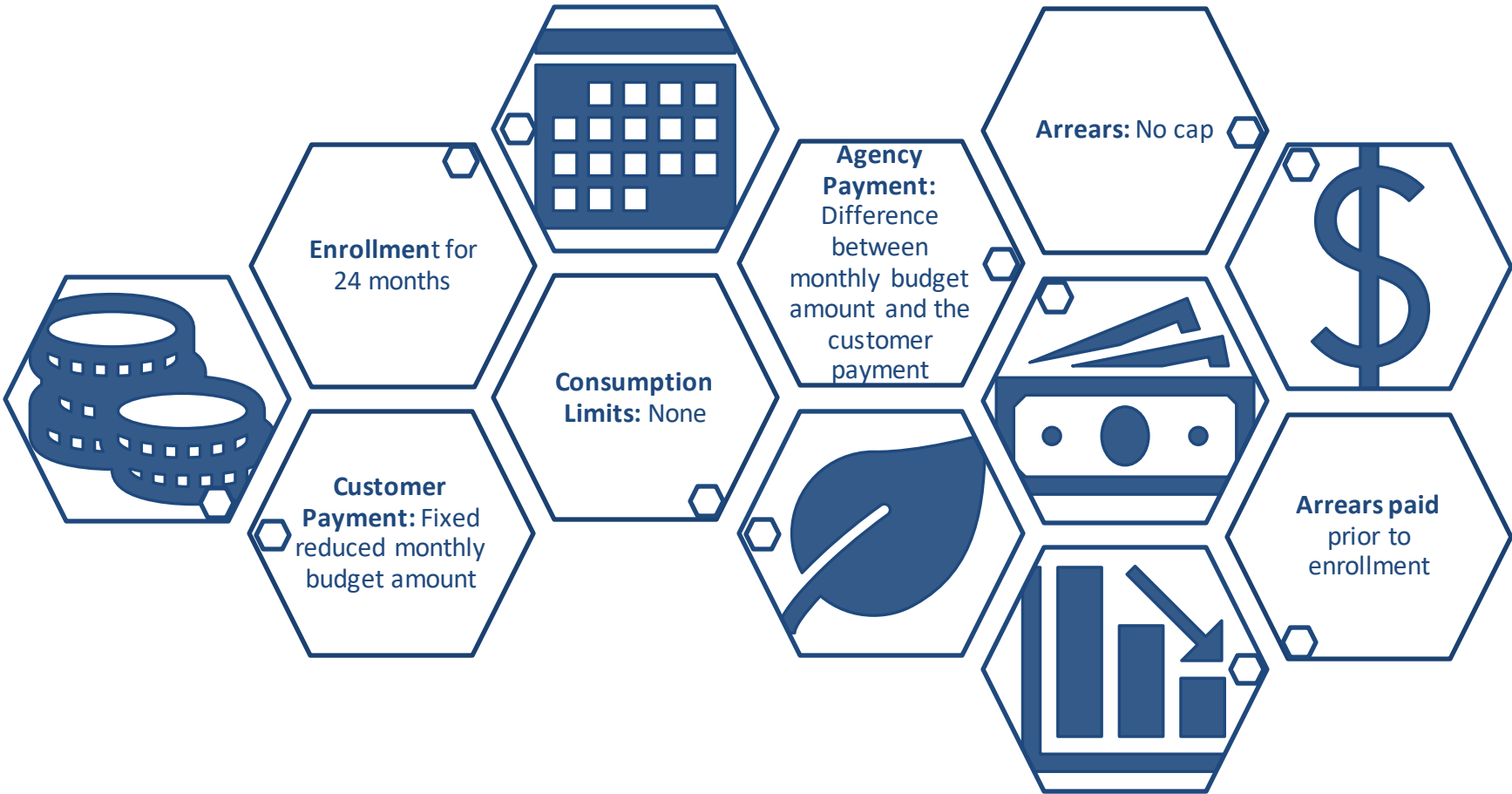
Federally Funded



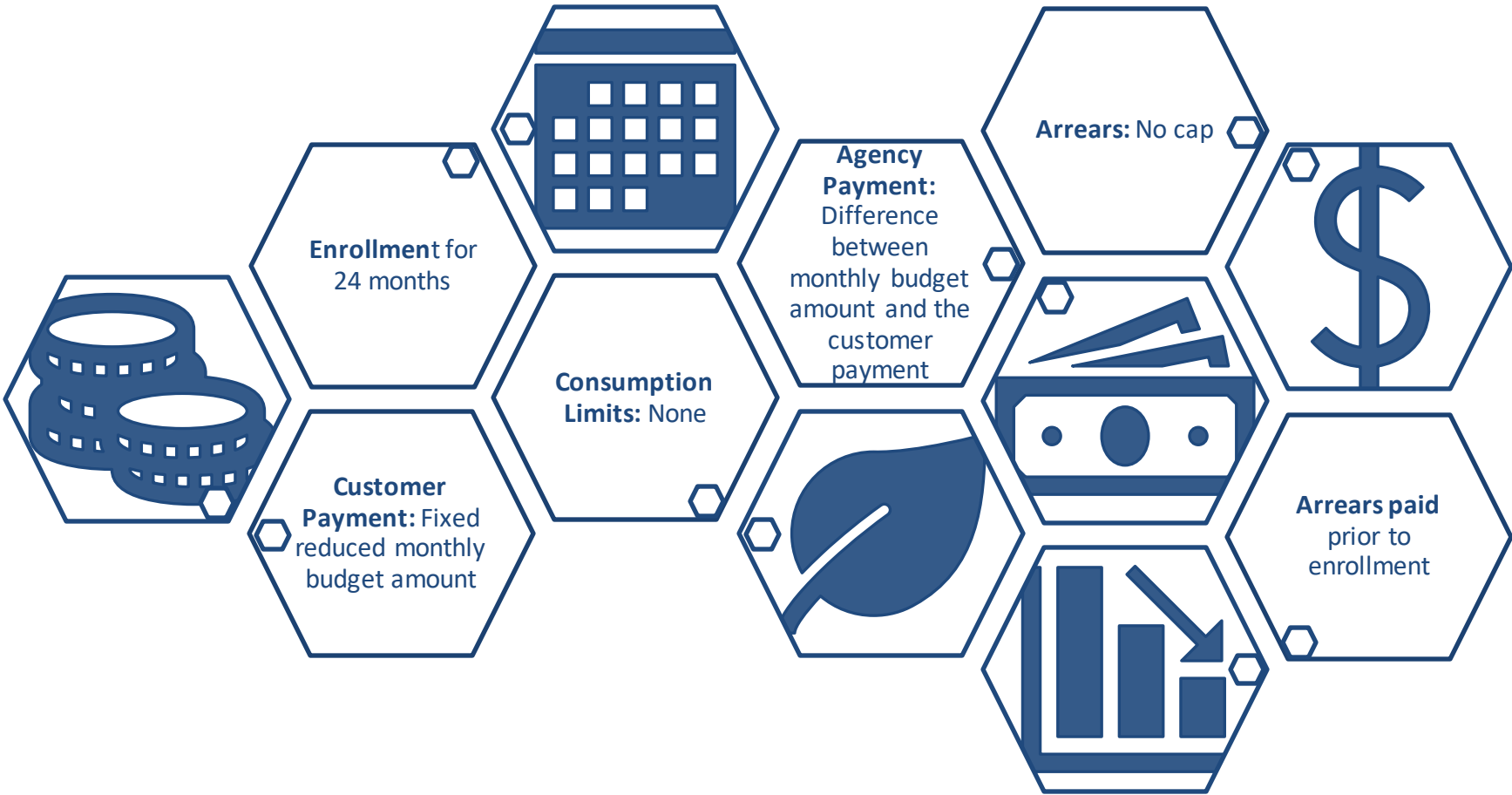
FPL: Federal Poverty Level
LSP: DTE's Low Income Self-Sufficiency Plan – a payment plan for eligible low income families

* LIHEAP weatherization program eligibility is ≤ 200% FPL. HHC eligibility is < 110% of FPL with adjustments. Eligibility for LIA, RIA, and all other credits and programs listed is ≤ 150% FPL.

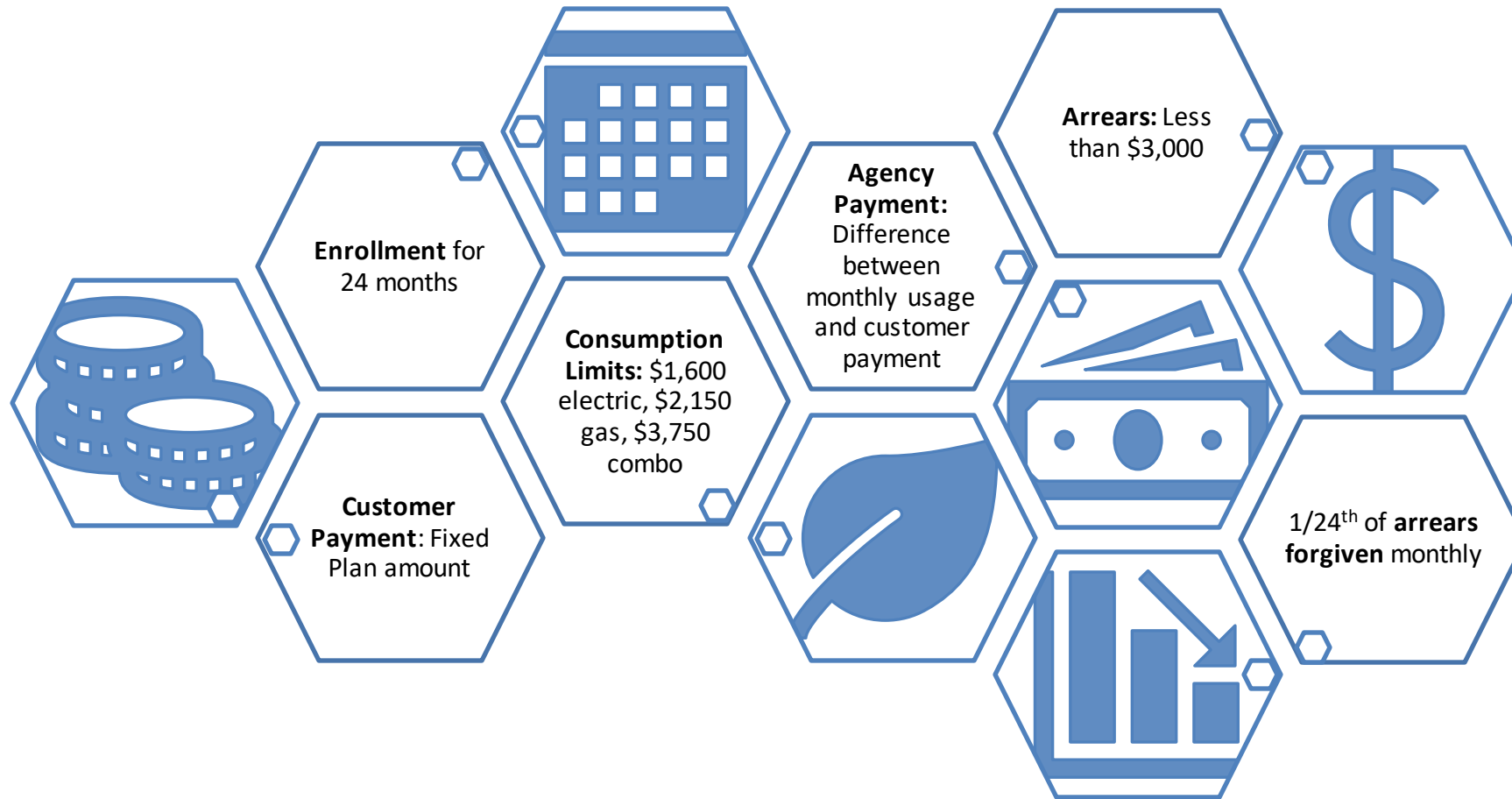
SEMCO Energy – APP Program Details



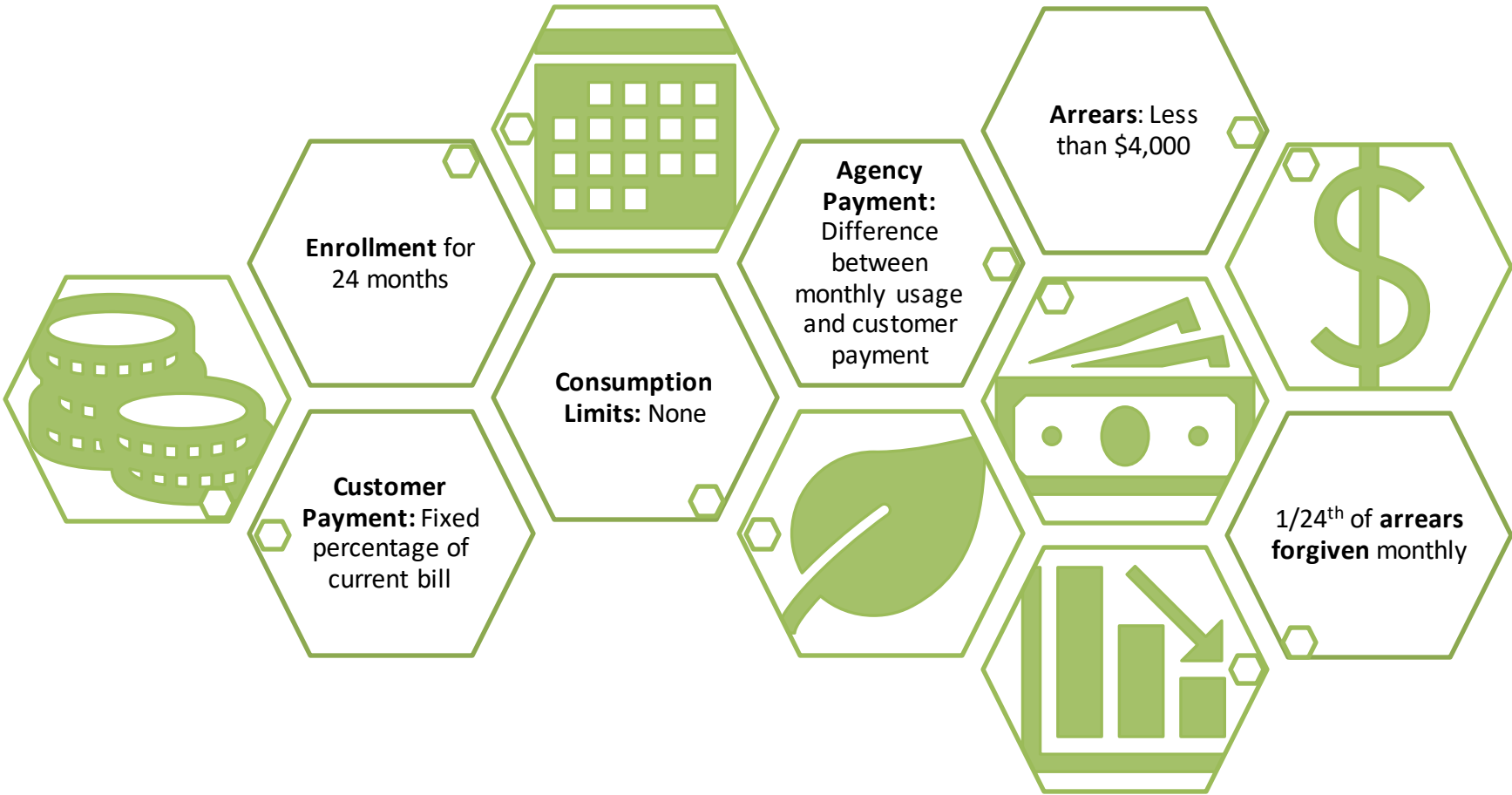
UPPCO – APP Program Details



DTE Energy – APP Program Details



Consumers Energy – APP Program Details



EAAC Meeting 7-21-21

Speaker Bios



Michigan Public Service Commission

Briana Parker, Policy Manager Elevate Energy

In her position at Elevate, Briana designs and implements programs that reduce costs, protect the environment, and ensures the benefits of clean and efficient energy use reach those who need them most. She also co-chairs the Diversity Racial Equity & Inclusion (DREI) committee and works to ensure diversity in the energy efficiency workforce in Michigan.

Before joining Elevate Energy, she studied law, worked as a social worker and volunteered for almost a decade as an organizer/ advocate at Michigan Welfare Rights Organization, a union for public recipients and low-income workers in the state of Michigan with the goal to fight to eliminate poverty in the United States. While volunteering in income communities, Briana learned to advocate for affordable energy, water, and housing.

Briana DuBose, Director Strategic Community Initiatives EcoWorks

Briana specializes in project management and program administration with experience in development of marginalized communities. She also has extensive experience as a principal consultant with municipalities and the private sector. Briana has a passion for children's advocacy and is an officer of the caring for Kids Foundation.

Eiffel Bayaban, Intern Elevate Energy

Karen Gould, Manager
Energy Waste Reduction Section
Michigan Public Service Commission

Karen acquired her accounting degree at Davenport University and began her career as an auditor for the grants department at the MPSC in 2006. She has spent the last 12 years regulating the utilities' Energy Waste Reduction programs since the inception of Public Act 295 requiring these programs, and is currently the manager of the Energy Waste Reduction section at the MPSC.

Kelly Rose
Chief Housing Solutions Officer
Michigan State Housing Development Authority
(MSHDA)

Tammy Bair, Departmental Manager Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)

Tammy graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelor's degree in Social Relations from James Madison College. She has worked for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) for over twenty-one years. She spent the first ten years as a caseworker in Kent and Ionia counties before working in MDHHS' Central Office as the manager of the State Emergency Relief (SER) program, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) as well as the Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP).

Wanda Jones, Manager
MEAP Grant Section

Michigan Public Service Commission

Wanda began her career as an auditor for technical services at the MPSC in 1987. Since that time she has acquired extensive knowledge in regulation and compliance and is currently the manager of the MEAP Grant Section.

Elaina Braunschweig, Departmental Analyst
Rates and Tariff Section
Michigan Public Service Commission

As an analyst in the Rates and Tariff section of the Michigan Public Service Commission, Elaina has specialized in ratepayer-funded low-income assistance credits alongside her normal participation in rate cases as a rate designer. She is also an active member of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee at the MPSC.

Tanya Paslawski, Senior Consultant

5 Lakes Energy

Tanya specializes in energy policy development, analysis and advocacy. She also serves as Director of Strategic Initiatives for the Institute for Energy Innovation and Michigan Energy Innovation Business Council, specializing in cutting-edge research.

For nearly two decades in the energy industry, Tanya has worked in both the public and private sector on behalf of the MPSC, Direct Energy, ITC Holdings, the Organization of MISO States, and most recently as President of the Michigan Electric and Gas Association. She has held positions working with state regulatory commissions and legislatures, MISO, FERC, and various stakeholder industry groups. She also served in formal business and administrative roles as an advisor to two chief executives.

Tanya currently serves as Secretary of Advancing Women in Energy and Vice President of the Midwest Chapter of the Energy Bar Association.

David Carroll, Managing Director Apprise, Inc.

David serves as the project director for energy program evaluations. He works with the Federal LIHEAP Program Office on low-income energy research and policy issues, and designs and implements survey research projects that deliver high quality and reliable information for decision makers. He has more than 30 years of experience in energy research with an expertise in evaluation study design and implementation, performance measurement, policy analysis, and survey research.

His most recent project is directing the Performance Management Technical Assistance for the Federal LIHEAP Program office, overseeing research and policy studies for NYSERDA, and conducting program evaluation and survey research for state agencies, utilities, and nonprofit organizations.

Katrina Metzler, Executive Director

National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition (NEUAC)

Katrina has dedicated her career to community service and advocating for those most in need. She has a wide range of experience in the fields of energy, education and poverty-fighting programs spanning more than 20 years. As an advocate at the local, state and now federal level, she has supported legislation for programs such as LIHEAP, WAP, CSBG and SEP. Previous positions include the Family, Adult and Children First Council, and the National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSPP). She also worked for the State of Ohio and managed one of the largest Weatherization programs in the country. Ms. Metzler was appointed to the State Energy Advisory Board in 2013 serving the Assistant Secretary for Energy, where she provided critical assistance to improve access to services and program delivery. She also was the Director of New Business Development at Pickaway County Community Action Agency and coordinated an adult education program at the county level for 14 years.