2019 Michigan Energy Assistance Program Grants

On June 29, 2018 the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) invited proposals from public or private entities or local units of government for Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) grants. The RFP offered a grant program that runs from October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019 and sought proposals that would intervene in energy crisis situations and provide energy assistance program services. These services help eligible low-income households meet home energy costs for their primary residence to prevent future crisis situations through payment or partial payment of bills for one or more of the following: 1) electricity; 2) natural gas; 3) propane; 4) heating oil; or 5) any other deliverable fuel used to provide heat.

The Request for Proposal requires that proposed energy assistance programs include services that will enable participants to become or move toward becoming self-sufficient, including assisting participants in paying their energy bills on time, assisting participants in budgeting for and contributing to their ability to provide for energy expenses, and assisting participants in utilizing energy services to optimize on energy savings. The grants are funded by the state Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund (LIEAF) and the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Assurance 16 funds.

Eleven proposals were submitted by the July 31, 2018 deadline and nine were funded. The award amounts are listed below.

MPSC in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS), approved the following MEAP grants totaling $54,500,000:

- Barry County United Way: $150,000, Barry County.
- Michigan Community Action: $6 million, statewide.
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul of the Archdiocese of Detroit: $4.1 million; multiple counties throughout Michigan.
- Superior Watershed Partnership: $2.4 million, 15 Upper Peninsula counties, some Northern-Lower Peninsula counties.
- The Heat and Warmth Fund: $8.2 million, statewide.
- The Salvation Army: $11.4 million, statewide.
- TrueNorth Community Services: $10.5 million, statewide.
- United Way for Southeastern Michigan: $6.75 million, Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne counties.
- United Way of Jackson County: $5 million, statewide.