

United Way of Jackson County

2021 MEAP

Grant Award: \$5,250,000

Service Area: State of Michigan

Anticipated Reach: 5,649 Households

United Way of Jackson County (UWJC) in partnership with Consumers Energy Company, DTE, and SEMCO is providing Affordable Payment Plans (CARE, LSP, and MAP) along with other self-sufficiency services to eligible, income qualified customers (specific focus on those who are elderly, disabled, or both) that will enable participants to become or move toward self-sufficiency. In addition, UWJC works with all approved vendors to provide one-time assists.

Program Details

Self-sufficiency services offered are outlined below.

- Enrollment into an Affordable Payment Plan (APP). These include CARE (Consumers Energy customers), LSP (DTE customers), and MAP (SEMCO customers).
- One-time utility assistance.
- Needs Assessment and Short Term Case Management – this includes figuring out what a client's needs are beyond utility assistance (home weatherization, payment notices from utility providers, food assistance, etc.) and developing a plan to address those needs.
- One to one budget coaching over the phone with one of our staff.
- Access to our private Facebook group
- Monthly Tips Email with information on how to save money on your utility bill and where to get assistance with other services in your community.
- Financial Empowerment including eHome America Money management – online course that takes approximately 2 hours and gives information on managing personal finances, credit scores, etc.

Program Eligibility Criteria

- Must be approved for SER through DHHS (income equal to or less than 150% of the Federal Poverty Level guidelines)
- Account balance must be less than the targeted amount (the amounts vary by utility company)
- Must be 18 years of age or older.
- Must be a U.S. citizen or legal alien.
- Must not have theft or fraud on utility account

Application and Enrollment Process

Space is limited, and early application is encouraged. Enrollment begins October 1 and concludes as soon as spots are filled. Visit www.helpwithutilities.com to go through the screening process and complete an online application. Contact (517) 741-0202 for questions or to get an application mailed to you.

Partners

- Consumers Energy Company
- DTE
- SEMCO
- RiverStar