

The Heat and Warmth Fund

2023 MEAP Grant

Grant Award: \$6,724,000

Service Area: Statewide

Anticipated Reach: 8,000 Households

By delivering utility assistance to vulnerable Michigan residents, THAW minimizes difficult choices between keeping heating/electricity services on and meeting other basic needs. This assistance helps stabilize families, neighborhoods and even communities in crisis. THAW has used its 35 years of experience to develop programs that address a variety of household needs, help mitigate conditions leading to utility arrears, and reduce the need for crisis assistance. Delivered in collaboration with home energy suppliers and our network of agency partners, THAW strives to provide the most appropriate level of service and intervention, including affordable payment plan (APP) enrollment, energy efficiency upgrades, financial education, energy efficiency education and case management services tailored to the unique circumstances of the household.

Program Details

- MEAP application submission channels include
 - 1) THAW's online, in-person- **by appointment only**, and mail-in applications;
 - 2) Utility Assistance Center (call center);
 - 3) Community Assistance Day (CAD) events;
 - 4) THAW's agency partner network.
- Co-payment assistance for MEAP-eligible customers who are approved for State Emergency Relief (SER) by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.
- Affordable Payment Plans to provide customers with a fixed monthly payment and assistance on their energy bills. This year, THAW has partnered with the following utilities:
 - DTE Energy: Low-Income Self-Sufficiency Plan (DTE LSP)
 - SEMCO Energy: Monthly Assistance Program (SEMCO MAP)
 - Consumers Energy: Consumers Affordable Resources for Energy (CARE)
 - Upper Peninsula Power Company (UPPCO): Energy Assistance, Self-sufficiency & Education (EASE)
- Both in person and virtual Community Assistance Day (CAD) events held in partnership with utilities and community-based agencies designed to enroll customers into MEAP assistance plans as well as provide other information and services.
- Self-sufficiency services including a customer needs assessment and case management services based on household need.
- Case management and wraparound support services provided by THAW and its network of agency partners.
- Energy efficiency education, resources, and referrals to help families reduce their overall usage, improve the energy efficiency of their homes, and lower their utility bills.

Additional Services Offered

Coordination with human service agencies to link energy assistance with available self-sufficiency programs; weatherization; and other essential services such as food and clothing.

Locations and Contact Information

Office: 535 Griswold St., Suite 200
Detroit, MI 48226

Apply online at <https://thawfund.org/>
Telephone: 1 (800) 866-THAW (8429)