

United Way of South Central Michigan 2023 MEAP

Grant Award: \$5,250,000

Service Area: Statewide

Anticipated Reach: 4,053 Households

United Way of South Central Michigan (“UWSCMI”) in partnership with Consumers Energy Company, DTE, SEMCO, and UPPCO is providing Affordable Payment Plans (CARE, LSP, MAP, and EASE) along with other energy security services to eligible, income qualified customers that will enable participants to become or move toward energy security. In addition, UWSCMI works with all approved vendors to provide one-time assists.

Program Details

Energy security services offered are outlined below (eligibility on energy security services does vary).

- Enrollment into an Affordable Payment Plan (APP). These include CARE (Consumers Energy customers), LSP (DTE customers), MAP (SEMCO customers), and EASE (UPPCO 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.
- Long-Term Case Management (monthly goal check-in calls for our 0-19% FPL Pilots).
- One to one budget coaching over the phone with one of our staff.
- Access to our private Facebook group.
- Home energy kits.
- 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.), Financial Social Work classes offered via Zoom, and online modules based on various financial topics (managing debt, learning to budget, 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.uwenergyhelp.com to complete an online application. Contact (517) 741-0202 for questions to complete an application over the phone, or to get an application mailed to you.

Partners

- Consumers Energy Company
- DTE
- SEMCO
- UPPCO