

November  
2021



# ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

## PERMANENT ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

### Federal: Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Annual appropriation: ~ \$162.8M<sup>1</sup> split between the following programs:

- Home Heating Credit: ~ \$60M
  - ✓ Application through tax form
  - ✓ Eligibility: 110% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) (based on household size)
- State Emergency Relief: ~ \$61M
  - ✓ Eligibility: 150% of FPL and below
  - ✓ Caps of \$850 for electric and gas each; \$1200 for deliverable fuels<sup>2</sup>
- Weatherization: ~ \$5.5M
  - ✓ Eligibility: 200% of FPL and below (consistent with federal Department of Energy weatherization programs)
  - ✓ Distributed through Community Action Agencies
- Assurance 16 or self-sufficiency services: ~ \$6M
  - ✓ Eligibility: 150% of FPL and below
  - ✓ Distributed through the MEAP program by grantees

Apply through [MIbridges](https://www.mibridges.org), [211.org](https://www.211.org), call 211, or in person at a local MDHHS Office

### State Programs/Credits

Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP): \$50M

- The goal of MEAP is to help customers move toward self-sufficiency
- Distributed by a grant process to social services agencies across MI. 2021/2022 grant recipients are: The Salvation Army; True North; United Ways of SE Michigan, Jackson County and Barry County; Superior Watershed Partnership; St. Vincent de Paul; THAW; and Bureau of Community Action MDHHS. Grantees distribute to eligible households that have applied for assistance.
- Eligibility: 150% of FPL and below and have received SER
- Caps of \$2000 per household (this could be increased later in the year)
- Assistance can be for any electric, natural gas, or deliverable fuels
- Households either receive one time assistance or can enroll in a 2-year affordable payment plan available to customers of DTE, Consumers Energy, SEMCO, UPPCO, or Great Lakes Energy

<sup>1</sup> While annual appropriations for LIHEAP programs total ~ \$162.6M, the individual line items below represent the funding available for customer assistance. Note that one-time additional funds are allocated to these programs under the American Rescue Plan Act detailed below.

<sup>2</sup> Effective December 1, 2021, the caps will increase to \$1150 for electric and gas each and \$1,500 for deliverable fuels.

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- Households can receive self-sufficiency services through the LIHEAP Assurance 16

## Low-Income Assistance Credit

- Offered by DTE, Consumers Energy, and SEMCO and are approved through the ratemaking process
- Between \$30 and \$40 per month
- Eligibility: 150% and below of FPL

## Residential Income Assistance Credit

- Offered by DTE, Consumers Energy, SEMCO, and I&M (Low-Income Service Provision) and approved through the ratemaking process
- Assistance amount is capped at the monthly service charge, between \$7.50 and \$12.50. Assistance amount changes with adjustments to the monthly service charge in the ratemaking process.
- Eligibility: 150% or and below of FPL

## Senior Credit

- Offered by DTE and Consumers Energy
- Assistance amount: \$3.75 per month
- Eligibility: Customers of record, 65 years old and older

## FEDERAL COVID ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

### *LIHEAP American Rescue Plan Act appropriation (ARP Act)*

- ▶ \$238M proposed to be divided among the following programs:
  - LIHEAP Direct Support
  - Home Heating Credit
  - State Emergency Relief
  - Weatherization
  - Assurance 16
  - Heat & Eat
- ▶ Application process and eligibility requirements for these programs remain unchanged.

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## COVID Emergency Rental Assistance

- ▶ \$660M plus \$500M from ARP Act<sup>3</sup> (10-15% designated for utility bill assistance)
  - In addition to rental assistance, provides assistance for heat, electric, deliverable fuels, water, sewer, and broadband
  - [Eligibility: 80% AMI](#) (Area Median Income, income chart in link) and demonstrated COVID related hardship
  - Up to 12 months rental assistance
  - Utility assistance is capped at \$1500 - \$2500 for all utilities and is determined based on family size. Cap applies to payment of utility arrearages as well as \$300 - \$500 assistance on a going forward basis.
- ▶ Apply through [online application portal](#) with assistance delivered through local agencies
- ▶ Information regarding total applications received and processed, as well as assistance awarded through this program is available through the MI State Housing Development Authority [dashboard](#).

## Federal Homeowners Assistance

- ▶ Assistance dollars will be appropriated to the Michigan State Housing Development Authority
- ▶ Estimated funding: \$242M<sup>4</sup>
  - Program elements are under development; Goal is to stop foreclosures
  - Priority funding to mortgage, property tax and insurance payments
  - Eligibility: 150% of AMI; Anticipated that 60% of customers will be 60% of AMI
  - Maximum benefit is \$25,000
  - This program has referral materials for all other energy assistance programs.
- ▶ Application tools and process will be announced when program is funded.

<sup>3</sup> In total, \$660M has been appropriated by the Michigan Legislature while the remaining \$500M from the ARP Act has not yet been appropriated.

<sup>4</sup> These funds have not yet been appropriated by the Michigan Legislature.