Innovative Approaches to Energy Assistance in Lean Times

for NEUAC
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Integration & Partnerships
Integration

- Federal, State & Donated Funds
- Bill Payment Assistance Programs
  - Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
  - Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP)
- Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)
Fund Integration

DOE funds ($5M) → WAP
HHS funds ($167M) → LIHEAP → WAP
State funds ($98M) → PIPP
State funds ($98M) → LIHEAP
State funds ($98M) → WAP
Donated funds ($1M) → Emergency Assistance
Fund Composition

Federal Funds from HHS and DOE

State Funds from $0.48 meter charge

Donated Funds from citizen contributions and regulatory settlement awards
Who Is Eligible?

Applicants may be eligible to receive assistance if their household’s combined income is at or below the levels shown in the following chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of People Living in Household</th>
<th>LIHEAP/PIPP</th>
<th>WAP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gross Income for 30 days Prior to Application Date</td>
<td>Gross Income for Year Prior to Application Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$1,361</td>
<td>$23,340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1,839</td>
<td>31,460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2,316</td>
<td>39,580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2,794</td>
<td>47,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>3,271</td>
<td>55,820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>3,749</td>
<td>63,940</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For each additional member add $477.50
For each additional member add $8,120
LIHEAP and PIPP both:

- use the same intake network (35 CAAs in 102 counties)
- use the same income criteria (150% FPL)
- determine eligibility for WAP
- are offered to customers who choose their benefit

...but have some differences
Application Priority Periods

• The program begins on September 1 with a special two-month priority period for the elderly and, disabled. Families with children under the age of 6 years and households that are disconnected from their primary and/or secondary energy source can apply starting in October.

• The program is available to all low-income households as of November 1. Applications for energy assistance and reconnection will be taken through May 31 or until funding is depleted, whichever comes first.
The Application Process

• Household applies at intake site of local agency
• If PIPP window is open, LIHEAP v. PIPP choice made
• Application is reviewed, and approved, if eligible
• Application is entered into computer system, and payment levels are determined
• Payments are grouped into “Registers”, which are sent to the utility vendors for payment
• WAP referrals made for high energy users
LIHEAP Program Design

• Open Sept 1-May 31
• One payment per year
• Furnace Assistance
• Reconnection Assistance
• Can be customer of almost any energy vendor
• Cooling Assistance
LIHEAP Facts

• LIHEAP does not pay entire low-income families energy bills.
• The current average Energy Assistance Payment is $583.
• The current average Reconnection Assistance (RA) payment is $480.
• LIHEAP RA must be provided within 18 hours if the temperature is below freezing or the situation is life-threatening.
LIHEAP Facts (Cont.)

• The average benefit for furnace assistance is $1,981.
• In the 2014 program year, 2,290 heating systems have been repaired or replaced to date.
• Last year, over 333,782 low-income families in Illinois received LIHEAP Assistance.
• A total of $195.4M has been spent on behalf of 333,782 PIPP clients in PY14.
• A total of $53.6M has been obligated on behalf of 58,610 PIPP clients in PY14.
PIPP Program Design

- Open for applications Sept 1-Dec 31
- CL pays 6% of income, State covers up to $150/month. Some clients may pay an additional CPR amount above their 6%.
- 1/12 of arrearage forgiven with each on-time pmt ($1,000 annual max per utility)
- Furnace Assistance
- Monthly benefit payment
PIPP Program Design

• Must be customer of PIPP participating vendor
• Must recertify income and household composition annually
• High energy users referred to WAP
• Two missed payments → removed from PIPP
• Must have active account(s)
PIPP Facts

• The average benefit for furnace assistance is $1,981.
• Households with Seniors represented over 50% of PIPP households
• Last year, over 54,668 low-income families in Illinois received PIPP Assistance.
• A total of $54.1M has been obligated on behalf of 59,286 PIPP clients in PY14.
• In the 2014 program year, PIPP recipients represented 15% of all bill payment assistance clients.
Weatherization will provide:

- Services to high energy users eligible for LIHEAP/PIPP
- A comprehensive energy audit of home
- Air sealing, insulation, and minor repairs
- Repair or replacement of heating systems and replacement of refrigerators/freezers with Energy Star appliances
- Health & safety equipment replacement (ventilation fans, fire extinguishers)
Weatherization will also provide:

• Up to $5,200 of labor & materials per unit
• All Weatherization work is guaranteed for a one year
• Currently, there is no landlord contribution on rentals
• Streamlined intake process for HUD approved buildings
WAP Program Enhancement

- Creation of two new training centers
- Greater emphasis on multi-family units
- Higher eligibility threshold
- Strengthened partnerships
- New methods, new products
Partners

- Illinois Commerce Commission
- Utilities & Fuel Funds
- Illinois Propane Gas Association
- Illinois Energy & Recycling Office
- Citizens Utility Board
Partners

Illinois Commerce Commission

- Shared responsibility for PIPP
- Arrearage reports
- Disconnection reports
Partners

Utilities & Fuel Funds
  – Coordinated customer hand-offs
  – Enabling disconnected clients for PIPP
Partners

- Illinois Propane Gas Association
  - Rebates
  - Vendor coordination and outreach
# Projects Eligible for Rebates

**IL Energy & Recycling Office**

## Electricity
- Lighting Equipment
- HVAC Equipment
- Refrigeration Equipment
- Motors and Drives

## Natural Gas
- Gas Furnaces
- Water Heaters ≥50 gallon (Tanked & Tankless)
- Boilers
- Condensing Boiler
- Boiler Tune-Up
- Gas Forced Air Furnace Tune-Up
Partners

Citizens Utility Board
– Customer energy usage information
– Outreach and client education
www.illinoisliheap.com
www.illinoisweatherization.com

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