



Innovative Approaches to Energy Assistance in Lean Times

**for
NEUAC**

June 18, 2014

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ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY



Integration &

Partnerships

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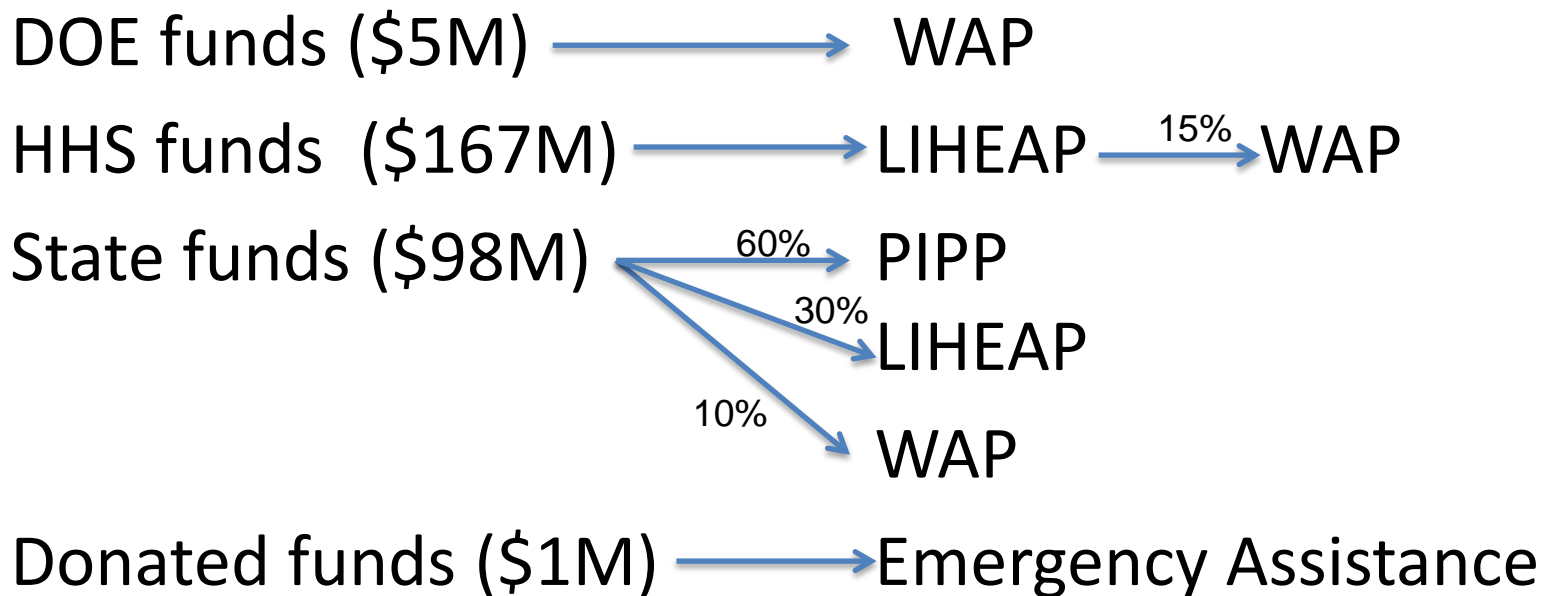


Integration

- 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





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.

	LIHEAP/PIPP	WAP
# of People Living in Household	Gross Income for 30 days Prior to Application Date	Gross Income for Year Prior to Application Date
1	\$ 1,361	\$23,340
2	1,839	31,460
3	2,316	39,580
4	2,794	47,700
5	3,271	55,820
6	3,749	63,940
	For each additional member add \$477.50	For each additional member add \$8,120



Program Integration

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.



PIPP Lessons Learned

??????



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



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