

Safe and Affordable Energy and Water: Essential Ingredients to a Healthy Home



Elizabeth Marx

Executive Director
Pennsylvania Utility Law Project



Catherine Klinger

VP of Client Services
Green and Healthy Home Initiative



John Sweet

Senior Staff Attorney
Pennsylvania Utility Law Project



Pennsylvania Utility Law Project

PULP is a statewide specialty legal services program within the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network.

PULP's mission is to ensure that all low income Pennsylvanians can access and maintain safe and affordable utility service.

- Legal Representation
- Education
- Supportive Services
- Consultation



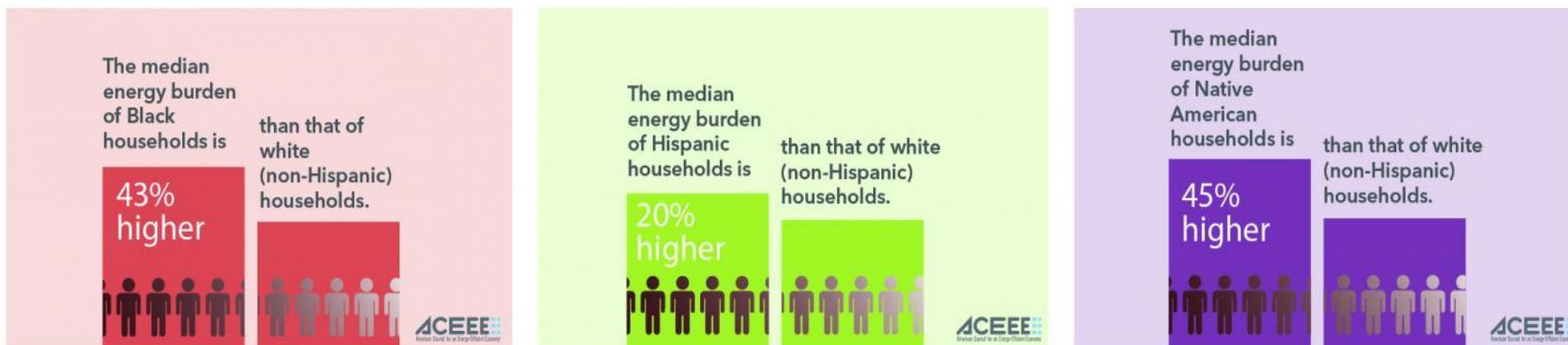
Federal Poverty Level

2021 Federal Poverty Limit Guidelines			
Household Members	150% FPL	250% FPL	300% FPL
1	\$19,320	\$32,200	\$38,640
2	\$26,130	\$43,550	\$52,260
3	\$32,940	\$54,900	\$65,880
4	\$39,750	\$66,250	\$79,500
5	\$46,560	\$77,600	\$93,120

Full Time Minimum Wage (\$7.25/hr): \$15,080/year

Utility Unaffordability Pre-COVID-19

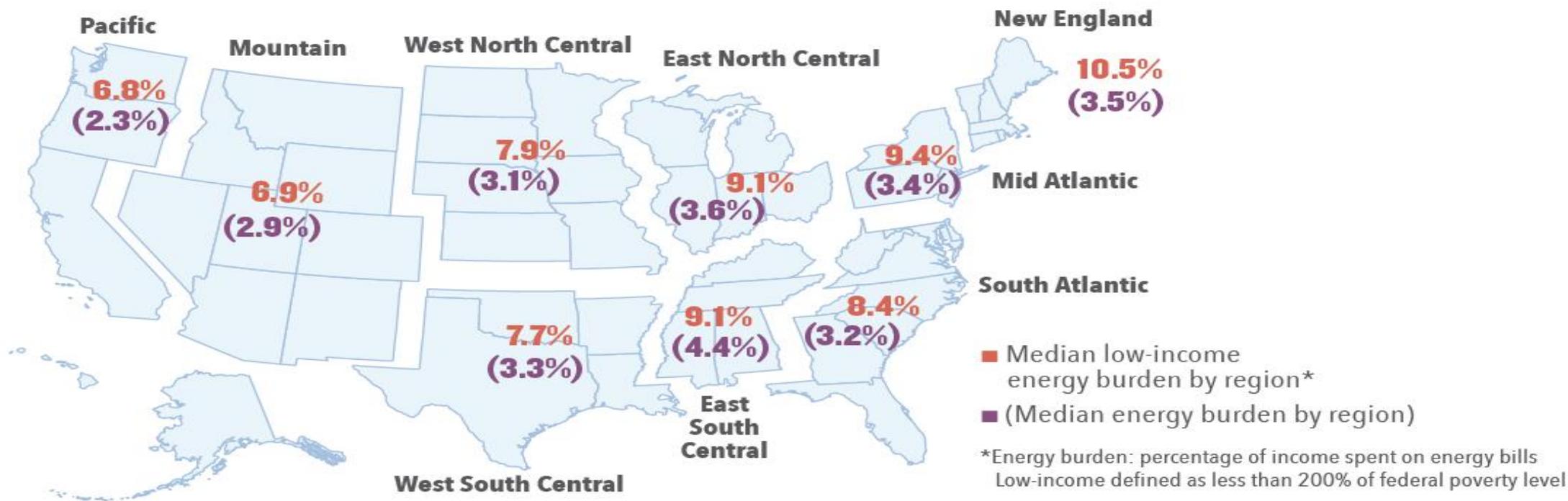
- **Low income households pay as much as 30% of income on home energy costs.**
 - Black and Latinx families have disproportionately high energy burdens.
 - Even with assistance through a Customer Assistance Program, energy burdens can be as high as 17% - sometimes even greater, depending on the structure of the program.



- **Water / wastewater also regularly exceeds 10% of income for low income households.**
 - No Current Commission Affordability Standard
 - EPA Affordability Standards (system-wide): 2.5% water / 2% wastewater
 - Few comprehensive affordability programs

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL ENERGY BURDENS

A household's energy burden is the percentage of income spent on home energy bills. A high energy burden is considered to be above 6% and a severe energy burden above 10%. ACEEE finds that certain groups have disproportionately higher energy burdens than the median household, such as Black, Hispanic, Native American, older adults (65+), renters, and low-income multifamily building residents.



This map illustrates the median energy burden and median low-income energy burden regionally. For more energy burden data and policy solutions for reducing high energy burdens through energy efficiency at the national, state, and local levels, see the 2020 ACEEE Report *How High Are Household Energy Burdens*.

Utility Unaffordability During COVID-19

- **Low income households – disproportionately so in Black and Latinx communities – experienced greatest job loss, food and medicine insecurity, and accrual of debt.**
 - **Primary factors include:**
 - Increased household expenses / utility usage required to “stay home and stay safe”
 - No paid leave / No ability to work from home
 - School-age children at home
 - Reliance on single wage earner and/or fixed income (Seniors, individuals with a disability)
 - Lack of employer-paid healthcare
- **Utility usage has increased as families spent (and continue to spend) more time at home – using more water, electricity, heating services, and internet than ever.**
- **These same households are also at a higher risk of exposure to COVID-19 and have experienced greater hospitalization rates and death.**
 - **Primary factors include (in addition to factors above):**
 - Poor quality housing and/or increased exposure to environmental pollutants which exacerbate effects of COVID-19
 - Greater reliance on service-industry jobs and other public facing / “frontline” jobs (cleaning, transportation, hospitality, etc)
- **Low and fixed income households have struggled to access stimulus payments and other federal stimulus benefits.**

Other Critical Factors Driving Utility Affordability Crisis

Water and Wastewater Privatization and Consolidation

- Changes in the valuation of water systems allows an acquiring utility to purchase a water or wastewater system at full market value and recover those costs fully through rates.

Critical Infrastructure Needs

- Grid hardening
- Removal of lead and PFAs

Clean Energy Transition

- Low income communities experience increased susceptibility and exposure to environmental pollutants and the effects of a changing climate – but the higher costs to fix those disparities also fall hardest on those same communities.
- Low income families cannot afford upfront costs of energy efficiency or distributed energy technologies that could offset high energy costs.

Residential Energy “Competition”

- Confusing offers, teaser rates, and high pressure sales
- Low income households more susceptible for offers with gift cards and promised savings.
 - *Nonprofits are also experiencing some of this kind of marketing!*
- Over 5 year period, residential customers who “shopped” for an alternative energy supplier paid roughly \$1.3 Billion more for electricity.
- Evidence of targeting in low income communities and communities of color

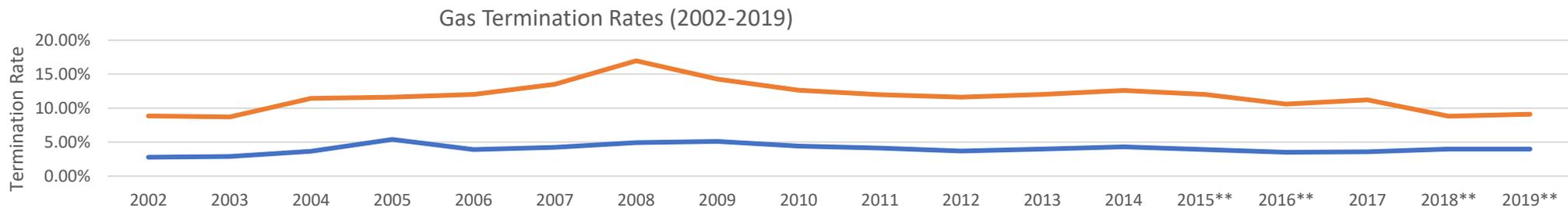
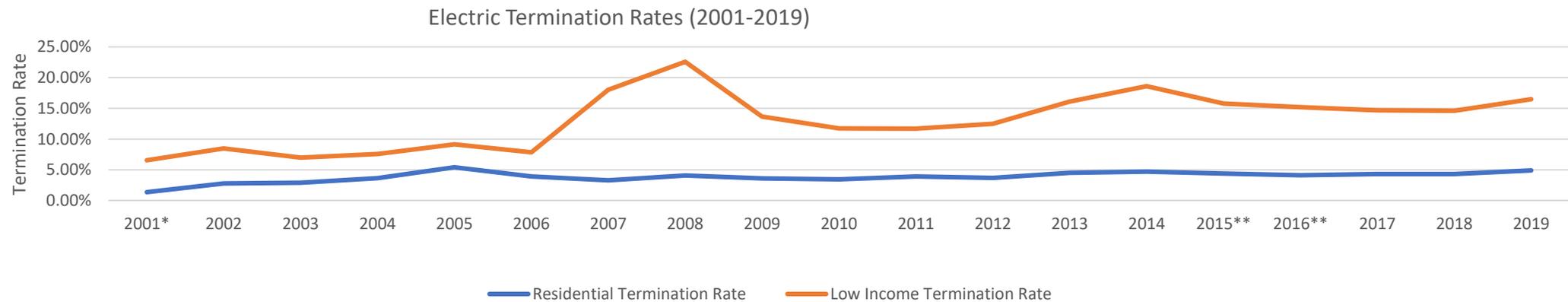
Utility Insecurity Causes Lasting Harm

- Exacerbates negative health outcomes
- Exposure to unhealthy/unsafe temperatures
- Inability to properly sanitize
- Lack of clean drinking water
- Interrupts family unity (CYS/custody disputes)
- Hinders child learning and development
- Severs critical communication with work/school
- Long-term impact on consumer credit
- Liens (municipal utilities) encumber property
- Destabilizes Housing
 - Catalyst for eviction, foreclosure, and homelessness
 - Results in condemnation
 - Difficulty relocating
 - Ineligibility for public and private housing

**Utility moratoria nationwide reduced COVID-19 infection rates by 4.4%
and reduced mortality rates by 7.4%.**

The housing crisis and economic recession of 2008 provides a cautionary tale.

- In 2008, more than 1 in 5 low income Pennsylvanians had their electric service terminated for nonpayment, and 1 in 6 experienced a natural gas termination.
- In 2014, following the Polar Vortex, low income Pennsylvanians again faced a spike in terminations, this time driven by instability in competitive market pricing.



Looming Crisis

February 2021

- \$852 million in residential debt, up 44% year over year.
- 814,000 “at risk” residential accounts.

October 2021

- 280,000 Terminations

Winter 2021/2022

- Heating costs are projected to increase 15-54%, depending on fuel source.

March 2020 to Today

- Major utilities approved to increase distribution rates approximately \$500,000,000 annually.

2022/2023

-



Green & Healthy Homes Initiative®

Safe and Affordable Housing and Water: Essential Ingredients to a Healthy Home

Catherine Klinger

Homes Within Reach Conference
December 2, 2021

30 Million Families Live in Unhealthy Homes in the US and COVID-19 has Heightened Health Disparities

Lead poisoning costs \$43B+ annually

- Primary cause is lead-based paint in old homes
- Leads to learning disabilities, ADHD, lower IQ, higher crime rates, lower lifetime earnings

Asthma costs \$81B+ annually

- 40% of asthma episodes are due to asthma triggers in the home
- Primary reason kids miss school



Fall hazards cost \$50B+ annually

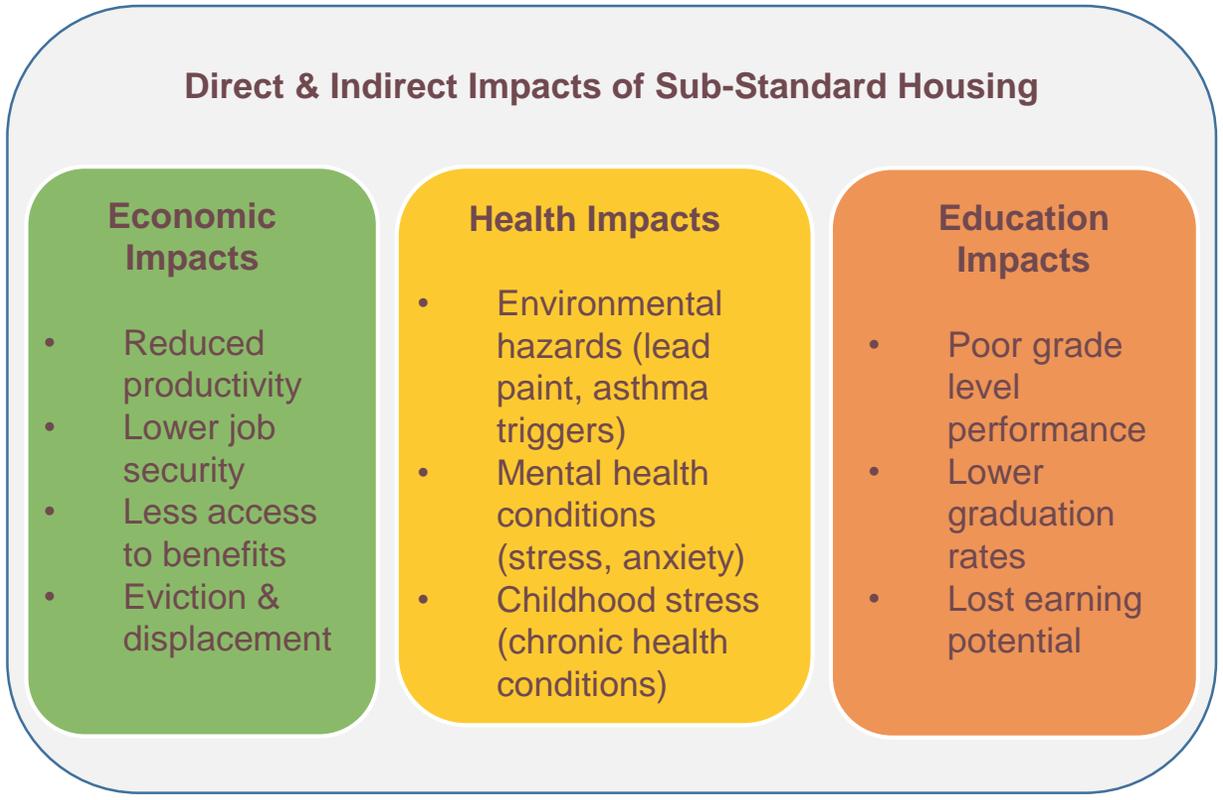
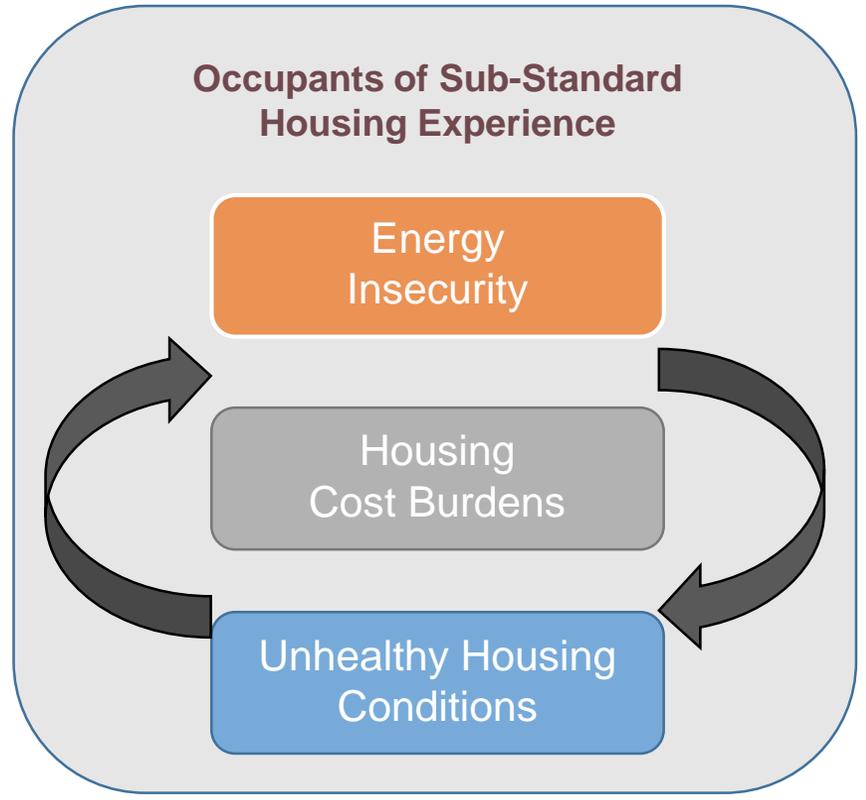
- 30% of adults age 65+ fall annually, mostly at home and can lead to institutional care needs

Energy inefficiencies cost \$20B annually

- Energy burden for low-income households is 3x higher than that of non-low-income households

Housing Quality is a Matter of Racial and Health Equity

The Burden of Substandard Housing: Health and Energy Impacts



The Opportunity...

To shift from disinvestment, ill-conceived, unjust and racist policies to resilient homes and neighborhoods that support children in reaching their full potential as they grow, and adults as they age with health, vitality and dignity.

Build Back Better framework

- For lead paint, currently includes \$5 billion in funding for:
 - **\$3.425 Billion** (HFSC had \$6.4b) for lead based paint hazard control in private sector low-income housing
 - **\$250 Million** (HFSC had \$500m) for Weatherization Assistance in private sector low-income housing
 - **\$1 Billion** (HFSC had \$2b) for project-based rental housing
 - **\$75 Million** (HFSC had \$810m) for workforce training
 - **\$250 Million** (HFSC had \$260m) for federal administrative costs
- Estimated to address “hundreds of thousands of homes” (HFSC had 581,000)



History of funding levels for the budget reconciliation plan

- American Jobs Plan initially had **\$213 billion** for housing, **no money** specified specifically for lead paint remediation
- American Jobs Plan update in May had **\$336 billion** for housing, **\$3 billion** for lead paint
- House Financial Services Committee markup of the budget reconciliation framework had **\$336 billion** for housing, **\$10 billion** for lead paint and healthy homes
- Build Back Better framework released yesterday has **\$150 billion** for housing, **\$5 billion** for lead paint and healthy homes

Build Back Better Framework – Lead in Water

- **\$970 million** at USDA for rural water lead remediation
- **\$9 billion** for lead reduction grant program under the Safe Drinking Water Act
- There is also **\$15 billion** for lead service line replacements in the separate \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill



Climate / Energy Investments for LMI households

- **\$1.7B** to improve energy efficiency, water efficiency, and climate resilience in affordable housing
- **\$1.45B** to revitalize distressed multifamily properties
- **\$2B** to energy efficiency and water efficiency improvements to rural rental housing
- **\$250M** for lead hazard control and weatherization coordination

General Climate / Energy Provisions

- **\$500M** to states for public and nonprofit energy efficiency improvements
- **\$360 M** for energy efficiency and healthy homes contractor training
- **\$5.89 B** for state energy offices to administer rebate programs that achieve GHG emissions reductions and household energy and cost savings

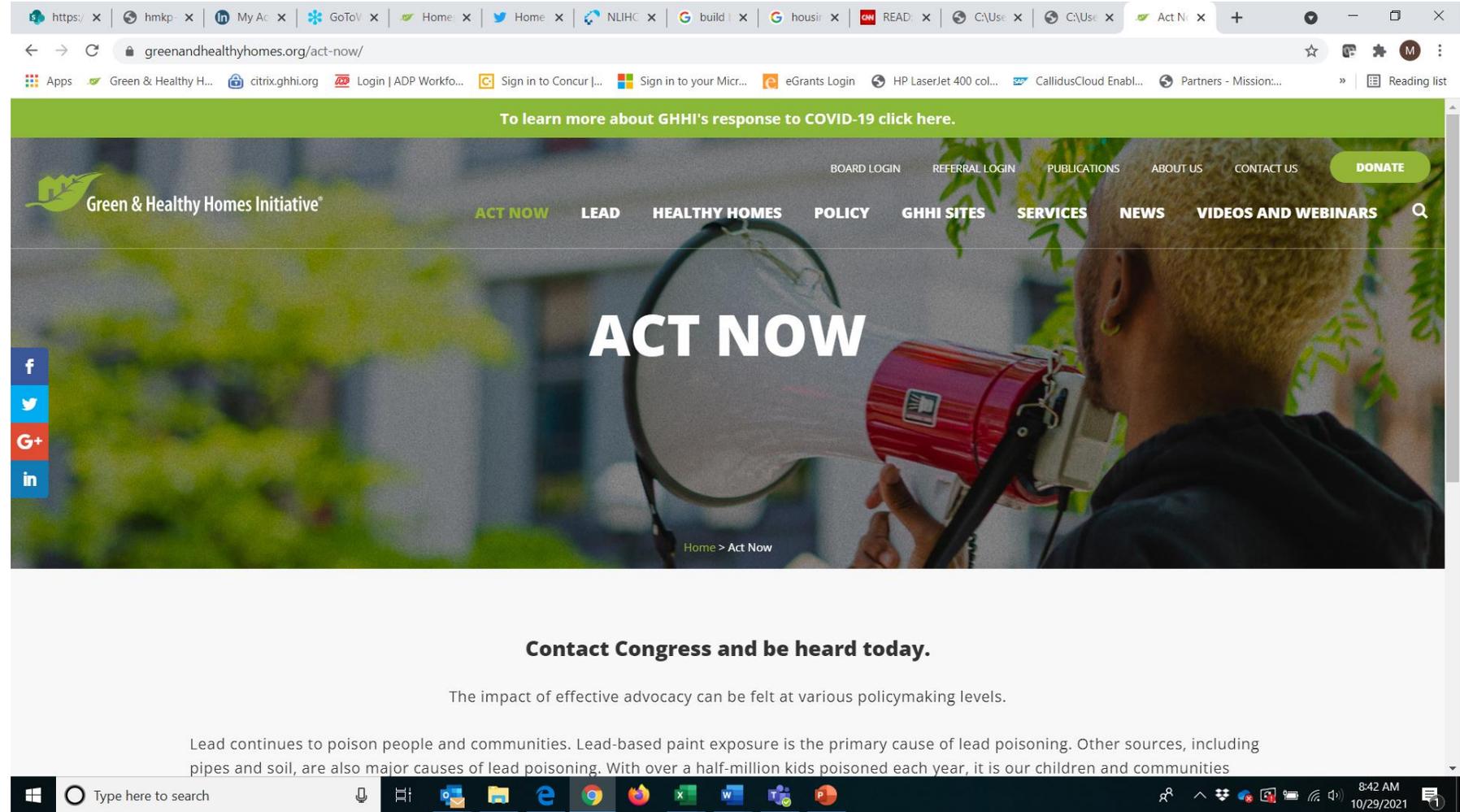
Single Family (units or less)	Multifamily buildings	LMI single- and MF ((80% AMI)
\$2000 for 20% energy savings or 50% of project cost	\$2000 per unit for retrofit achieving at least 20% energy savings up to \$200,000 for MF building	\$4000 for 20% energy savings or 80% of project cost
\$4000 for 35% energy savings or 50% of project cost	\$4000 per unit for retrofit achieving 35% energy savings up to \$400,000 per MF building	\$8000 for 35% energy savings or 80% project cost

Next Steps for Advocacy

- CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES NOW, ESPECIALLY IF THEY ARE ON THE SENATE BANKING COMMITTEE (Chair Sen. Brown – OH) OR HOUSE FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE (Chair Rep. Waters – CA)
- Ask to preserve the funding for lead, healthy homes, and energy efficiency in the final budget reconciliation bill
- Talking points and a draft letter can be found on GHHI's website – "ACT NOW"



Advocacy Tools



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the website greenandhealthyhomes.org/act-now/. The browser's address bar and tabs are visible at the top. The website's header features the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative logo on the left and a navigation menu on the right with links for BOARD LOGIN, REFERRAL LOGIN, PUBLICATIONS, ABOUT US, CONTACT US, and a DONATE button. Below the navigation menu is a main menu with links for ACT NOW, LEAD, HEALTHY HOMES, POLICY, GHHI SITES, SERVICES, NEWS, and VIDEOS AND WEBINARS. The main content area has a large background image of a person using a red megaphone. The text "ACT NOW" is prominently displayed in the center of this image. Below the image, there is a breadcrumb trail: "Home > Act Now".

Contact Congress and be heard today.

The impact of effective advocacy can be felt at various policymaking levels.

Lead continues to poison people and communities. Lead-based paint exposure is the primary cause of lead poisoning. Other sources, including pipes and soil, are also major causes of lead poisoning. With over a half-million kids poisoned each year, it is our children and communities

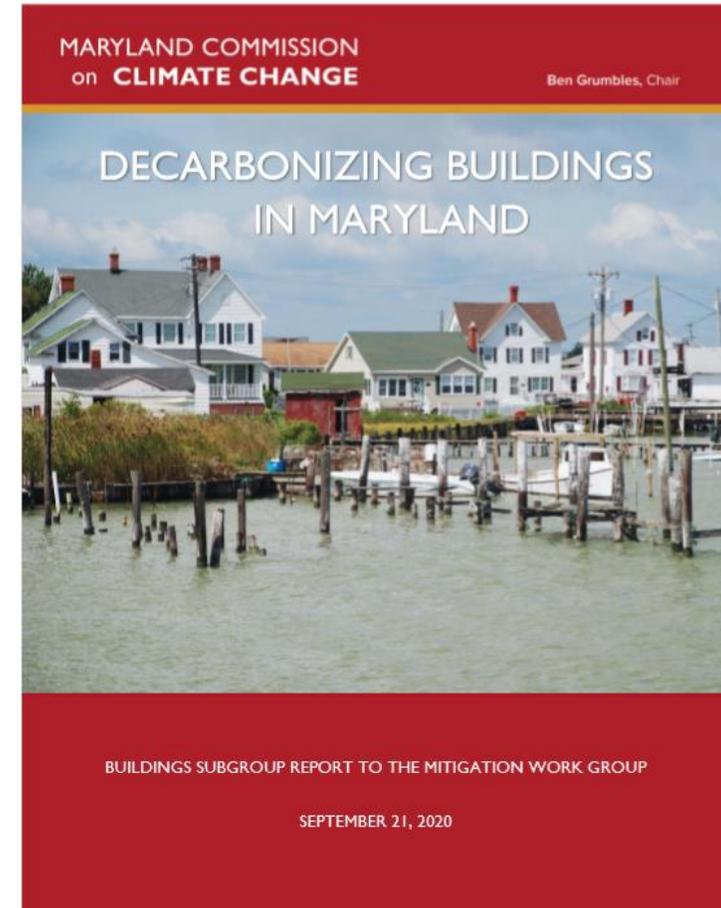
CDC Blood Lead Reference Value – now at 3.5µg/dL

CDC would like state and local health departments to:

1. Formally adopt the updated BLRV of 3.5 µg/dL.
2. Publicly promote the BLRV as a way to identify children with BLLs that are higher than most U.S. children's levels.
3. Encourage providers to perform CDC's recommended actions based on the BLL.
4. Have a secondary prevention strategy to identify and follow up children who are exposed to lead.
5. Focus screening efforts on high-risk neighborhoods and children based on age of housing and sociodemographic risk factors.
6. Collaborate with public health and clinical professionals to develop screening plans responsive to local conditions using local data. In the absence of such plans, universal blood lead testing is appropriate, including the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services requirement that all Medicaid-enrolled children be tested at ages 12 and 24 months, or at ages 24–72 months if they have not previously been screened.

Coordinating Energy, Climate, and Healthy Homes

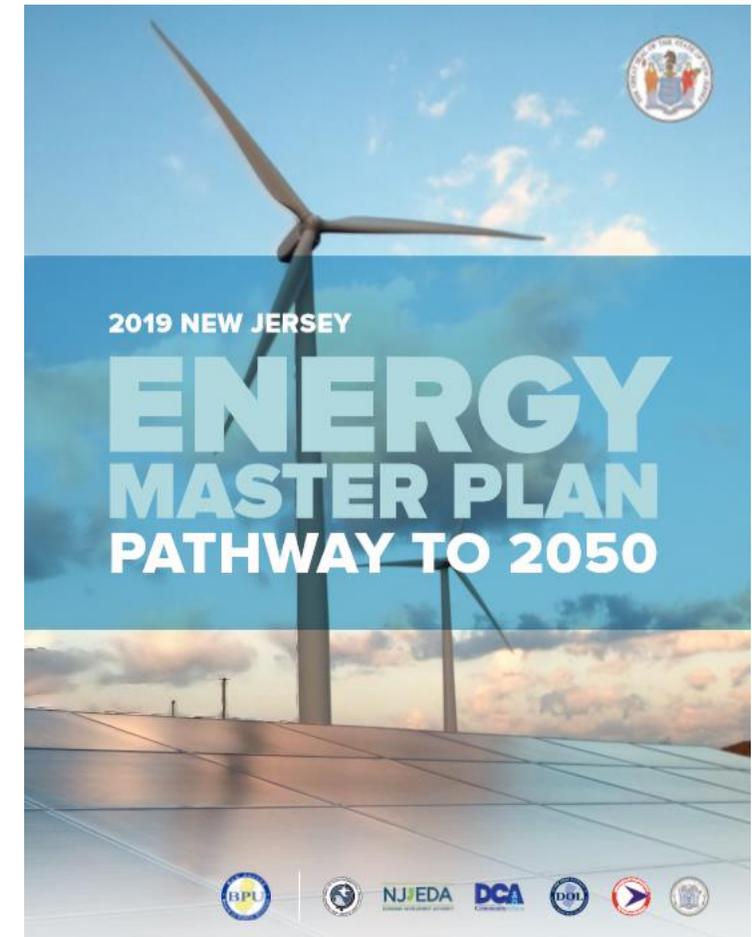
- Maryland Commission on Climate Change has recommended:
 - Adapting Empower program to facilitate beneficial electrification and building shell efficiency
 - Equitable benefits for low-income households and disadvantaged communities
 - A Green & Healthy Task Force to coordinate energy and healthy homes retrofits



New Jersey Whole House Pilot

Effort to combine lead poisoning prevention and energy efficiency infrastructure to achieve public health and climate goals

This initiative was included in the most recent NJ Budget



HUD Lead Grant and DOE Weatherization Program Coordination

5 communities will be funded \$1 million each (over 36 months) to provide housing interventions in lower income households jointly through HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes Programs and DOE Weatherization Assistance Program

Demonstration Objectives

Identify effective strategies for coordination between Lead Hazard Control/Healthy Homes (LHC) and Weatherization programs that maximize program efficiencies and benefits to occupants, including data sharing, reporting, and outreach/enrollment

Reduce Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) deferrals through coordination with LHC programs.

Support the collection of data to evaluate the housing interventions conducted through inter-program coordination (e.g., program cost efficiencies that can be achieved, improvements in indoor environmental quality, improved health outcomes, additional safety benefits to households).

Healthcare Partnerships Making a Cross-Sector Impact

- ProMedica
- Amerigroup
- Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health
- Affinity Health



cklinger@ghhi.org

www.greenandhealthyhomes.org

@HealthyHousing

[Facebook](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

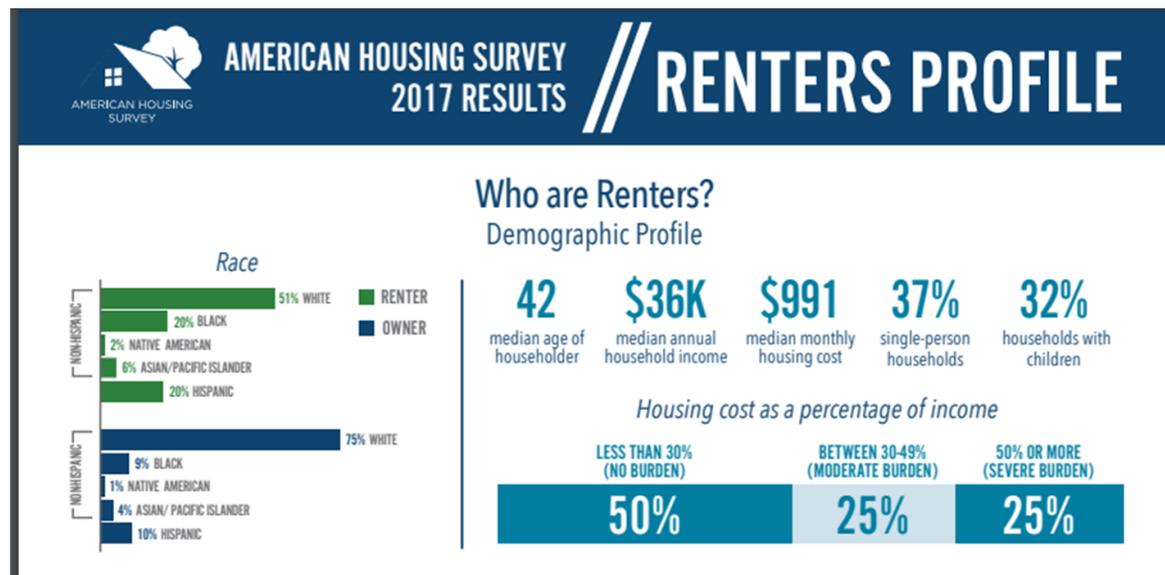


Safe and Affordable Energy and Water: Essential Ingredients to a Healthy Home



Tenant and Landlord Utility Rights and Obligations
Federal, State, and Utility-Administered Utility Assistance Programs

Tenant Statistics and Vulnerability



- Diverse households are significantly more likely to be renters.
- One quarter of tenants pay at least 50% of income toward housing costs.
- Approximately 1/3 of renters have children in the household.
- Tenants are often not the named utility customer because the account is in the landlord's name – *especially for water and wastewater.*

The results of utility termination in tenant households:

- Children removed from their parent's home, or transfer of custody to noncustodial parent
- Eviction and/or loss of housing subsidies
- Displacement with little warning due to condemnation or uninhabitable conditions
- Long-term impact to consumer credit, and associated impact to re-housing
- Difficulty seeking new housing if cannot connect service upon move-in due to prior debts
- Ineligibility for public housing due to utility debt, depending on local housing authority rules

Utility Rights & Obligations: Tenants

- Right to continued service where termination is due to nonpayment by landlord ratepayer
 - Must pay last **30 days** usage to prevent termination or be reconnected
 - Must pay for ongoing usage every 30 days going forward.
 - Not responsible for debts in landlord's name.
 - Right to **deduct payments from rent**
 - Right to subscribe to service in their own name
 - Not always advisable, but may be beneficial for enrollment in assistance programs
- Entitled to 30 days notice before termination
- Applies to multifamily residential buildings

Utility Rights & Obligations: Landlords

- Must **notify utilities** that property is a rental unit that is not individually metered
 - If a unit is paying for usage from another unit, the utility will switch back to landlord's name and landlord will be responsible for any balance.
- Cannot call the utility to request shut off if unit is occupied
- Prohibited from retaliating against tenant who exercises right to continued service
- Cannot waive tenant's rights through a lease agreement

Foreign Load

- If a tenant's meter is connected to a shared or common area, or another tenant's unit, the landlord is responsible for the **full bill** for that residence until she/he removes the load from the shared/common area.
 - Power to a single outlet or fixture outside the tenant unit is enough
 - Tenants may request that the utility conduct a foreign load investigation
 - If foreign load is identified, the bill – along with any debt – will be placed in the landlord's name.
 - The tenant will only be responsible for the utility bills after the foreign load issue is resolved.
- Only applies to regulated utilities.

Submetering

- A multifamily building may be “sub-metered” by a third party in some utility service areas.
- Allows a landlord or third-party subcontractor to make a profit on the resale of utilities because they are charged a commercial rate, but pass on a residential rate.
 - *Note: The legality of this is in question.
- **Key Consumer Issues:**
 - Utility resellers can bundle utility charges together, allowing them to add fees over and above the residential retail rate.
 - Utility resellers have full control over termination, circumventing dozens of tenant protections.
 - Consumers with a submeter are not eligible for CAPs or other universal service programs.

Emergency COVID Utility Relief

Emergency COVID Utility Relief

CARES Act (2020)

Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)

- PA Allocation \$34.9M

Consolidated Appropriations Act (2021)

Low Income Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)

- Administered by DHS
- ~ \$42M (total with ARPA funds)

Emergency Rental [and Utility] Assistance (ERAP)

- Administered by DHS/Counties
- ~ \$847M (total with ARPA funds)

American Rescue Plan Act (2021-?)

- ERAP
- LIHWAP
- LIHEAP
 - PA Allocation: Est. \$260M
- Homeowner Assistance Fund
 - PA Allocation: \$350M
- Emergency Broadband (EBB)
 - \$3.3 Billion
 - Administered by USAC (FCC)
 - \$50/mo + \$100 device support

*Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act

- WAP - \$3.5 Billion
- Broadband Assistance (will replace EBB - \$30/mo benefit)

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program - LIHWAP

- **Eligibility**

- **150% FPL**

- Categorical income eligibility for LIHEAP, SSI, SNAP, and TANF

- **Water/Wastewater Responsibility**

- Must be individually metered building, and applicant must be responsible for paying the bill – even if the bill is in the landlord/owner's name.
 - Payment will go directly to water/ww utility to resolve outstanding debts, and cannot be paid to the applicant or landlord/owner.
 - If water/ww bill is paid as an undesignated part of rent will not be eligible (but try ERAP!)

- **At Risk of Termination / Service Off**

- A household will be considered “at risk of termination” if they have prior water debts – termination notice not required.

- **Utility Agrees to Maintain Service for Minimum 90 days After Grant Received**

- **Benefits**

- Up to \$2,500 grant for water and/or wastewater services to resolve outstanding debts.

- **Program Opens JANUARY 4, 2022.**

Emergency Rental [and Utility] Assistance

- **Eligibility**

- 80% Area Median Income, Priority for 50% AMI
- Reduced income, substantial costs, or other COVID-related financial hardship
 - ****Soon to be expanded to anyone with financial hardship DURING pandemic – not just related to!**
- Risk of housing instability / homelessness

- **Benefits**

- Up to 12 mo. rent, utility, and home energy costs and arrears, plus up to 3 additional months.
 - ****Soon to be expanded to 18 months**
 - *Covered utilities include: Electricity, gas, water, sewer, trash, and deliverable fuels – may include telecom.*
- Other housing related expenses incurred directly or indirectly due to COVID-19
- Housing stability services

- **Applications available through Compass:**

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/coronavirus/Pages/Emergency-Rental-Assistance-Program.aspx>

- For counties not using COMPASS, the website will automatically direct applicants to their local ERAP agency

Emergency Rental [and Utility] Assistance

- **Full Arrears vs. Amount Due**

- Extended payment arrangements, while helpful as an interim relief measure to prevent termination, have caused some households to receive a lesser grant through ERAP.
- ERAP should pay all rent and utility debt (within 12 / 18 mo limit), not just the current amount due.

- **Lack of Clear Appeals Process**

- All counties should have an established dispute process, and are required to provide applicants with information about how to appeal an adverse decision or inaction.

Homeowners Assistance Fund

- Administered by the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA)
- **Proposed State Plan**
 - Includes utility relief for energy and water/wastewater debts.
 - Requirement to apply for other utility relief first. Process unclear at this time.
 - **Pending federal review and approval.**
- Program anticipated to open sometime in Spring 2022

Emergency Broadband Benefit

<https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit>

Benefit:

- Up to \$50 / month broadband subsidy
- \$100 device discount, with \$10-\$50 co-payment

Eligibility:

- Qualify for Lifeline, free/reduced school lunch, Pell Grant recipient, substantial loss in income since March 2020 and income under \$99K for single or \$198K for joint filers, **OR** eligible for provider's existing low income or COVID-19 program

Federal Programs

Lifeline

<https://www.usac.org/lifeline/>

Benefit:

- \$9.25 monthly subsidy for telephone, broadband, or bundled service**
- Subsidy cannot pay for equipment, but some providers offer free phone
- Benefit is “portable” to other providers
- One subsidy **per household** (defined as an economic unit)

Eligibility:

- Income at or below 135% FPL, or categorical eligibility
 - SNAP, Medicaid, SSI, Public Housing, or Veteran Pension/Survivor Benefits

As part of 2016 Lifeline reforms, voice-only services are set to be phased out as of **12/1/21**. This may negatively impact over 10 percent of all Lifeline enrollees who utilize voice-only services. <https://www.benton.org/blog/lifeline-needs-lifeline>

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

LIHEAP Season: October 18, 2021 – May 6, 2022

- Cash Grant - \$500 - \$1,500
- Crisis Grant - \$25 - \$1,200
- Crisis Interface – Emergency Furnace Repair

How to Apply:

- Apply in person at local County Assistance Office
- Apply online at Pa. COMPASS
 - <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/>
- Call LIHEAP Hotline (1-866-857-7095) to request application
 - Fax, mail or drop off your application at the LIHEAP office
 - If you mail or fax your application, be sure to keep a copy (or take a picture!) and call the LIHEAP hotline to confirm it was received

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

▪ Eligibility

- Household Income at/below 150% FPL

▪ Home Heating Responsibility

- Direct to the utility, or as a **designated or undesignated portion of rent.**

▪ Exception:

- Public housing recipients who pay for heat as an undesignated portion of rent are not eligible for LIHEAP if their rent is based on a percentage of income.

▪ PA Residency

▪ Additional Eligibility for Crisis Grants

- Actual or imminent home heating emergency
 - Termination notice / 15 days of fuel or less

▪ Grant will resolve the crisis

- ***A utility may accept LESS than the total amount owed to resolve the crisis – But you have to ask!***

▪ Additional Eligibility for Crisis Interface

- Furnace is broken or in disrepair.
- Home was not purchased without heating system.
- Furnace must have been operational within last 2 years.

Weatherization Assistance Program

- Weatherization saves families an average of **\$283 each year** and can reduce heating bills up to 30%.
- Funded by Dep't of Energy (DOE), administered by Dep't of Community and Economic Development
- **Eligibility:**
 - 200% FPL
 - Priority for higher risk residents, including elderly, disabled individuals, families with children, and high energy users.
 - **Significant wait-list in some counties.*
 - Pennsylvania Resident
 - Landlord permission (if renter)
 - *Slowly expanding to medium/large multifamily buildings, too!*
- **Benefits:**
 - Diagnostic Assessment of Air Leakage
 - Health and Safety Repairs
 - Electric Baseload Measures (energy efficiency and reduction)
 - Client Energy Education
- **Health and Safety Deferrals:**
 - Thousands of homes are deferred from WAP because of health and safety issues, like mold, wiring, and roofing issues
 - Small budget health and safety to allow for WAP providers to fix very basic issues.
 - The WAP Deferral Program is designed to help resolve health and safety issues to install measures in the home.

Clean & Tune Program (Pilot)

- DCED launched a new pilot program to provide furnace maintenance service to households that received LIHEAP crisis interface (emergency furnace repair) last year or this year.
 - Funded with \$20 million allocated from DHS to DCED for weatherization, as part of the supplemental LIHEAP funds.
- Possible services include:
 - furnace cleaning, testing, replacement parts / filters
 - health / safety inspections
 - education and instruction
 - Installation of basic efficiency and weatherization measures, as well as programmable thermostat
- Contact your local **Weatherization Assistance Program** provider or local **County Assistance Office** for more information or to apply.
 - <https://dced.pa.gov/housing-and-development/weatherization/agency-list/>

Utility Specific Programs

Customer Assistance Program

Available to customers of regulated gas and electric companies. Some regulated water companies offer limited assistance programs as well.

- **Benefits:**

- Reduced Rates / Lower Monthly Payments
- Past Debt (arrearage) Frozen
- Arrearage Forgiveness Earned Over Time

- **Eligibility Requirements:**

- Annual gross household income is at or below 150% FPIG
- Payment troubled
- Periodic income verification

Hardship Fund Programs

- **Benefit**
 - Cash grant, typically up to \$500 to resolve crisis
- **Eligibility and program terms vary by utility**
 - Typical terms include:
 - 200% FPL or below
 - Recent payments / Attempts to make payments
 - Temporary hardship
- Some utilities prohibit current CAP customers from also receiving hardship fund grant assistance, but will make exceptions

Low Income Usage Reduction Program

- **Benefits:**

- Free home energy audit to identify cost-effective ways to reduce energy usage.
- Free energy efficiency and usage reduction measures. May include:
- New appliances / appliance recycling
- Insulation / Pipe Wrapping / Weatherproofing
- Lightbulbs / Power Strips / Automatic Switches
- Incidental Health and Safety Repairs
- Some utilities also offer Emergency Furnace Repair / Replacement Services through LIURP.

- **General Eligibility:**

- Income at/below 200% FPL
- High Usage
- Landlord Permission (If Renter)

Act 129 Energy Efficiency and Conservation

- All PA electric utilities with at least 100,000 customers are required to have EE&C Plans to reduce electric consumption,
- Subject to the review, approval, and oversight of the Public Utility Commission.
- The Act requires the Commission to assess the cost-effectiveness of the EE&C Program every five years

Most provide:

- **Residential program**
 - Appliance recycling
 - Insulation
 - Rebates on energy saving devices (ie. smart thermostats)
 - Lighting
 - Heat pumps
- **Low income residential**
 - Usually similar to residential, but at no upfront cost, more limited measures
- **Commercial/Government/Nonprofit/Education**
 - Generally, rebates for energy star level equipment
- **New Construction – Residential & Commercial**
- **Demand response**
 - Incentives for reduced usage

Public Utility Commission Act 129 EEE&C page:

- <https://www.puc.pa.gov/filing-resources/issues-laws-regulations/act-129/energy-efficiency-and-conservation-ee-c-program/>

Resources

- Additional resources available on PULP's website at:
 - <https://www.rhls.org/utilities/pulp/links-to-utility-resources>

Contact Information

Training and Technical Assistance: pulp@pautilitylawproject.org

Emergency Utility Hotline (Statewide): 844-645-2500

Elizabeth R. Marx, Executive Director

emarx@pautilitylawproject.org

John W. Sweet, Senior Staff Attorney

jsweet@pautilitylawproject.org

Safe and Affordable Energy and Water: Essential Ingredients to a Healthy Home



Elizabeth Marx

Executive Director
Pennsylvania Utility Law Project



Catherine Klinger

VP of Client Services
Green and Healthy Home Initiative



John Sweet

Senior Staff Attorney
Pennsylvania Utility Law Project

