



Energy Bill Assistance

Maryland State Programs: In the state of Maryland there are multiple programs that can assist with paying your energy bill.

The Office of Home Energy Programs (OHEP) provides bill assistance to low-income households in the State of Maryland to make their energy costs more affordable and to help with the prevention of loss and the restoration of home energy service. There are four separate grants they provide. To participate, you have to fill out a form online: http://www.dhr.state.md.us/blog/?page_id=4326

- **Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP)** provides assistance grants to help with home heating bills. Payments are made to the fuel supplier and utility company on the customer's behalf.
- **Electric Universal Service Program (EUSP)** provides financial assistance with electric bills. Eligible customers receive help that pays a portion of their current electric bills. Some EUSP participants may qualify for assistance with past due electric bills as well as referrals to energy efficiency programs. Customers who receive EUSP are placed on a budget billing plan with their utility company.
- **Utility Service Protection Program (USPP)** is designed to protect low-income families from utility turn-offs. All MEAP eligible customers may participate in USPP. Participation also requires a year-round even monthly budget billing. Failure to make consecutive payments may result in removal from USPP.
- **Arrearage Retirement Assistance** helps customers that have a large, past due electric bill as well as electric and heating bill payment benefits. If eligible, customers receive forgiveness of up to \$2,000 towards their past due bill, based off their actual bill amount. Customers must have a past due bill of \$300 or greater to be considered eligible. Customers may only receive an arrearage grant once every seven years, with certain exceptions.

Fuel Fund of Maryland: The Fuel Fund of Maryland provides resources to vulnerable Maryland families for heat and home utility needs.

You may be eligible to get help from the Fuel Fund if:

- You qualify for assistance from the Office of Home Energy Programs (OHEP).
- You have a turn-off notice for your gas or electric service or you are out of a bulk fuel such as heating oil.
- You have not received help from the Fuel Fund in the past 12 months.

No-Cost Weatherization and Energy Efficiency Services

- **Weatherization and Energy Efficiency Services** – customer information is referred to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for programs that can provide improvements and repairs to homes at no cost. These improvements can help lower utility bills and make the home more comfortable. DHCD's energy efficiency and weatherization programs support the EmPOWER Maryland Energy Efficiency Act.

EmPOWER Maryland

- Under the "EmPOWER Maryland" initiative, the State will reduce energy consumption by 15 percent by 2015. To help achieve this goal, the Maryland Department of the Environment, Maryland Energy Administration, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, the Public Service Commission and all five utilities, BGE, Delmarva Power, Pepco, Potomac Edison, SMECO are working together to provide Marylanders with programs that can help lower utility bills and keep money in their pockets. <http://climatechange.maryland.gov/empower-maryland/>