



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
COMMONWEALTH KEYSTONE BUILDING  
400 NORTH STREET  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120

March 4, 2024

TO: Members of the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation

FROM: The Commissioners of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

**Re: 2023-2024 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program Funding**

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PA PUC) encourages you to take necessary and swift action to ensure that the remaining 10% of allocated Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds become available to help low-income families in Pennsylvania. We are concerned that 10% of Pennsylvania's LIHEAP funding will not be released until Congress authorizes an annual budget. While the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (PA DHS) has indicated that it can fund the program until approximately March 15, 2024, after that date, PA DHS may be forced to close the program early and delay issuances of grants to the detriment of eligible Pennsylvania consumers.

The PA PUC works together with the PA DHS, the LIHEAP administrator, to make sure that eligible Pennsylvania families have access to essential LIHEAP funds each year to help them keep their heat on and stay safe and warm, especially during the winter months. As you know, LIHEAP provides cash and crisis grants to households with incomes at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines to pay for utility bills and deliverable fuels for home-heating and other home energy needs. There is a great need for LIHEAP funding in Pennsylvania - PA DHS has received over 10,000 LIHEAP applications in the past week and over 438,000 applications so far this program year. During the 2022-2023 LIHEAP season, over 312,000 Pennsylvania households received more than \$125 million in LIHEAP cash grants and PA DHS issued approximately 144,000 LIHEAP crisis grants, totaling approximately \$99 million, to help low-income households restore or avoid the loss of their home heating service. Significantly, PA DHS awarded over 50,000 LIHEAP cash grants in March or later in 2023.<sup>1</sup>

Given the great need for and the efficient use of LIHEAP funding in Pennsylvania, we ask that you seek immediate authorization to release the remaining 10% of Pennsylvania's LIHEAP allocation, about \$22 million. The 2023-2024 LIHEAP season will run until April 5, 2024, and PA DHS will continue to accept program applications until that time. It is still cold outside. Pennsylvania families are counting on this LIHEAP funding through the rest of the program so they can afford safe and reliable heating in their homes.

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<sup>1</sup> PA DHS provides these statistics in its Energy Assistance Summary Report and budget updates.

The PA PUC thanks our Pennsylvania Delegation for taking the time to consider this letter regarding LIHEAP funding. The PA PUC is willing to address any questions or issues about this matter. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact any of our offices or the PA PUC's Legislative Director, JJ Livingston, at 717-772-0399.

Sincerely,



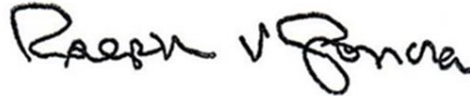
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