

COMMISSION ON
ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY
OF HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

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October 16, 2017

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
PO Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

RE: Reply Comments of the Hazleton Office of the Commission on Economic Opportunity
Docket No.: M-2017-2596907

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

The following reply comments are being submitted on behalf of the Commission on Economic Opportunity Hazleton Office in reference to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission's Comprehensive Review of Universal Service Programs and Energy Conservation Programs.

The Hazleton office of the Commission on Economic Opportunity currently services lower Luzerne County, areas of Colombia County and Schuylkill County. As a Community Based Organization this office provides not only energy and utility assistance, but also housing assistance, emergency services and food and nutrition. The variety of services and programs administered by the Hazleton office of the Commission on Economic Opportunity signifies the importance of using Community Based Organizations.

Clients in our service territory are familiar with our services and understand we are a source for not only assistance but guidance as well. A Community based Organization such as ours is uniquely positioned in the community to offer programs and referrals that best meet the needs of our local community.

In conclusion, we recommend that regulated utility companies continue the use of Community Based Organization to administer those programs that encompass both Universal Service Program and Energy Efficiency Programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to make our comments part of the record.

Sincerely,



Ana Garcia
Office Manager
Hazleton Office
Commission on Economic Opportunity

" P E O P L E H E L P I N G P E O P L E "