

PULP (NON) FICTION

a Pennsylvania Utility Law Project publication

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Utility Hotline 844-645-2500



PULP

PENNSYLVANIA
UTILITY LAW PROJECT

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LIHEAP RECOVERY CRISIS PROGRAM – APPLY NOW!

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is now accepting Recovery Crisis Program applications, in response to the COVID-19 health emergency. The maximum crisis grant amount for 2019-2020 was increased to \$800. Consumers who are behind in their electric or gas bills and have income at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Level may be eligible.

Consumers who already received a Cash or Crisis grant during the 2019-2020 season can request the additional Recovery Crisis grant by calling 877-395-8930 or their local county assistance office.

New applicants can apply at <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/>. Paper applications can be requested by calling 877-395-8930.

Detailed information about the program can be found [here](#). Please feel free to copy and distribute the flyer.

COVID-19 Continues: Will Utility Terminations Begin?

Pennsylvanians have been protected from service termination of PUC regulated utilities during COVID-19, due to the Emergency Order by the Pennsylvania Utility Commission (PUC). Many municipal authorities and co-ops have voluntarily agreed to the moratorium. Unfortunately, the Emergency Order ends on June 4. Unless the PUC or Governor grant an extension,

customers will be at risk of termination even though the pandemic continues. Now is the time for customers to reach out to their utility companies to enroll in Customer Assistance Programs, obtain grant assistance, or ask for payment arrangements.

Utility Companies Want Rate Increases: Attend the Public Input Hearings!

UGI Gas is seeking permission from the PUC to increase rates by approximately \$74.6 million per year (8.5%). The average customer bill would increase from \$81.54 to \$90.22 per month (10.6%). UGI customers can give input to the PUC on how the increase would affect them at the Telephonic Input Hearings.

Date: Thursday, June 4, 2020

Times: 1:00 p.m. AND 6:00 p.m.

In order to testify (give input) or listen to the hearing, contact the Office of Consumer Advocate before 5:00 p.m. on Monday, June 1. For more information or to sign up, the OCA can be reached at 1-800-684-6560.

Philadelphia Gas Works (PGW) is also seeking a 10% rate increase for approximately 500,000 residential, commercial, and industrial customers. *In order to testify or listen to the Telephonic Input Hearings, contact the OCA before 3:30 p.m. on May 29.*

Hearing Dates: Tuesday, June 2 AND Wednesday, June 3.

Times: 1:00 p.m. AND 6:00 p.m.

PWSA, Columbia Gas, and Pennsylvania American Water dates have yet to be scheduled, stay tuned for more information.

PECO Default Service Proceeding: Public Input Hearing Scheduled.

A public input hearing for PECO's DSP will be held on Tuesday, June 9 at 10:00 a.m. The hearing will be conducted by WebEx video conferencing. You must register by 5:00 p.m. on June 5 at:

<https://morganlewis.webex.com/morganlewis/onstage/g.php?MTID=e7e2ff54f8b1d5fb0b1e3b822027a18b>

PULP Steps Into 21st Century: "Like" Our Facebook Page.

We are excited to report that PULP has a [brand new Facebook page](#)! Give our page a [like](#) to keep up with the latest from our team.

If you are not on Facebook, our blog post, "Who Pays the Most" about the intersection of COVID-19, utility accessibility, and race can be found [here](#).

PULP Staffing Updates:

PULP staff is growing!

On May 18, 2020 PULP welcomed, Iman Woodyard, our Martin Luther King, Jr. Intern. Iman is a rising third-year law student at Penn State Dickinson Law who wants to become a lawyer to pursue her overall interest in achieving social justice, finding ways to eliminate oppressive societal forces that remain intact for vulnerable populations, with a more specific mission to advocate on behalf of minorities and low income communities. Her drive to becoming a legal advocate has always been fueled by and geared toward working in the public interest field because of her sense of purpose in serving others. For her complete story, visit our Facebook page or [blog](#).

Madilyn Keaton, our Energy Justice Project Consultant, will be coming on board full time in July 2020. She graduated from Messiah College with a degree in Environmental Science in 2018. Following graduation, she served with PULP for a year as a fellow through the Episcopal Service Corps. She joins us again following a year as an AmeriCorps VISTA serving refugees and immigrants in the Greater Harrisburg area. Madi has recently created our Facebook page, the LIHEAP Recovery Crisis Flyer, and updated our blog (including the [post](#) referenced above).

Contact the Pennsylvania Utility Law Project:

Contact for Advocates

Advocates can contact PULP with questions about how to assist a client to connect, maintain, or prevent termination of their electric, natural gas, or water utility account.

717-236-9486 x222 (Kristen) / pulp@palegalaid.net

Contact for Clients

Low income clients who are unable to connect to service or are facing a utility termination can call the Utility Hotline for assistance with resolving their utility issue.

Toll Free: 1-844-645-2500 / utilityhotline@palegalaid.net

PULP

118 Locust Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101
717-236-9486
pulp@palegalaid.net