

MARYLAND ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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The Department of Human Resources administers the Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) through the Community Services Administration. The Administration subcontracts with twenty local agencies (departments of social services, governments, and community action agencies) to provide energy assistance to eligible low-income households across the State. Under this program, vendors provide a combination of fuel oil, electricity, gas (natural and/or propane), wood, and coal to eligible households statewide. Eligibility for assistance is based on household size, income, fuel type, and geographic location. Households with the greatest need receive the highest level of assistance. Benefits reflect a fixed portion of average fuel consumption based on fuel type. They range from a low of 19 percent of average consumption to a high of 35 percent. Heating assistance is offered to eligible renters, roomers, boarders, and home owners. Maryland is the first state to offer this heating program to shelters for battered spouses and the homeless.

The Program also offers Emergency Energy Assistance to households certified eligible for regular MEAP benefits. This assistance, provided on a one-time-only basis, is for fuel deliveries, utility cut-offs, emergency repairs, blankets, emergency space heaters, or emergency shelter. It may not exceed \$150. Benefits provided are paid directly to energy vendors selected by the eligible household. Vendors deliver fuel to a household until that household's benefit amount is exhausted. Vendors that participate in the Program do so under contract with the State.

The Maryland Energy Assistance Program office also is responsible for administering the federal Low-Income Home Energy Program in Maryland. Under this federal program, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has been authorized since 1981 to help eligible householders meet home energy costs with federal funds (P.L. 97-35).

MARYLAND COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

Chairperson: Sally T. Grant, 1990

Honorary Chairperson: Jeanette R. Wolman

George E. Allen; Malcolm Funn; Roberta B. Hochberg; Jo Anne P. Welsh. *Terms expire 1987.*

Lorraine Q. Cecil; Kandyce M. Douglas; Alice C. Hall; Terry C. Hamblin; Roberta E. Kaskel; Maisie Hodes Wood. *Terms expire 1988.*

Lisa H. Jablon; Elizabeth F. Johnson; Edna M. McLellan; Paula J. Peters; Stuart J. Robinson; Lenel Srochi-Meyerhoff; Eileen M. Stein; Phyllis B. Trickett. *Terms expire 1989.*

Diana M. Bailey; Elizabeth Jones; Esther R. Levin; Richard H. Moore; Florence Perman. *Terms expire 1990.*

Donna Rae Talbert, *Executive Director*

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The Commission originally was appointed by the Governor in 1965 as the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women. As part of a continuing effort to promote human understanding and to solve pressing social problems, the Commission was reactivated in 1968 as the Maryland Commission on the Status of Women. The Governor directed the Commission to review the previous Commission's recommendations on education, employment, and community and civic participation, and to take steps to implement those most pertinent. The Commission also was to cooperate with existing organizations on the State and local levels in identifying problems and to work toward increasing the opportunities for women to serve in a variety of fields.

In 1971 the Commission on the Status of Women became a statutory agency, assigned to the Department of Human Resources (Chapter 57, Acts of 1971). The Commission adopted its present name in 1976 (Chapter 119, Acts of 1976).

The Maryland Commission for Women promotes the study and review of the status of women in the State. To strengthen home life, it directs attention to critical problems confronting women as wives, mothers, homemakers, and employed people. The Commission recommends methods of overcoming discrimination against women in public and private employment and encourages women to become candidates for public office. In addition, the Commission promotes effective methods for enabling women to develop their skills, continue their education, and be retrained.

The Commission consists of twenty-four members appointed by the Governor from among persons interested in the improvement of the status