

(1) an appropriation in the annual State budget; or

(2) a budget amendment in accordance with § 7-209 of this title, provided that any budget amendment shall be submitted to and approved by the Legislative Policy Committee prior to the expenditure or obligation of funds.

(e) In accordance with the provisions of subsection (f) of this section, the Director of the Maryland Energy Administration or the designee of the Director shall:

(1) administer the Fund;

(2) develop plans, prepare and submit proposals to the Governor for Fund use, and undertake any action that is necessary to obtain for the Fund all energy overcharge refunds and judgment awards to which the citizens of the State have a legal entitlement;

(3) assess and determine the respective needs of the citizens of the State and develop recommendations for the allocation and disbursement of funds in accordance with those needs pursuant to the provisions of subsection (f) of this section;

(4) conduct public hearings at least twice a year at times and places the Director or the designee of the Director determines; and

(5) perform other duties as may be assigned by the Governor.

(f) (1) The Fund shall be expended subject to any restrictions on its use or other limitations on its allocation that are:

(i) expressly provided by statute; or

(ii) required as a condition of the acceptance of funds.

(2) The Fund shall be expended:

(i) for emergency energy assistance provided under Article 41, § 6-406(1) of the Code;

(ii) for energy assistance programs provided under Article 41, § 6-406(2) of the Code;

(iii) for energy assistance and weatherization programs provided under Article 83B, § 4-202, and Title 9, Subtitle 20 of the State Government Article;

(iv) for energy extension service and low income home energy programs provided under 42 U.S.C. §§ 7001 through 7011 and 8621 through 8629;

(v) for other energy assistance or weatherization programs meeting the federal restitutive objectives governing the distribution of overcharge refunds to the states;

(vi) for any other program within the definition of "energy conservation programs" as provided by Pub. L. No. 97-377, 96 Stat. 1830, § 155 (1982)