

year shall be retained in the fund and shall be made available for disbursement through the first 3 months of the next fiscal year to customers who:

1. qualify for assistance from the fund during the given fiscal year;
2. apply for assistance from the fund before the end of the given fiscal year; and
3. remain eligible for assistance at the time services are provided.

(ii) If the Commission determines that an extension is needed, the Commission may extend up to an additional 3 months the period in which unexpended BILL ASSISTANCE AND ARREARAGE RETIREMENT funds may be made available for disbursement under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph.

(iii) Any BILL ASSISTANCE AND ARREARAGE RETIREMENT funds collected for a given fiscal year that are retained under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph and that remain unexpended at the end of the period allowed under subparagraphs (i) and (ii) of this paragraph shall be returned to each customer class in the proportion that the customer class contributed charges to the fund for the given fiscal year in the form of a credit toward the charge assessed in the following fiscal year.

Article - Housing and Community Development

2-102.

The Department shall:

- (1) encourage and assist political subdivisions and public and private community organizations to develop mutual and cooperative solutions to their common problems;
- (2) serve as a clearinghouse for information and materials that may be pertinent to sound community assistance, including information on available federal, State, and private financial assistance and technical assistance;
- (3) implement model or demonstration programs and projects or otherwise provide a program of practical research in community assistance;
- (4) provide grants and loans for energy conservation and the use of solar energy in commercial and residential buildings;
- (5) provide advisory, consultative, training, and educational services, and technical assistance to any political subdivision, local public agency, or nonprofit organization for community assistance purposes;
- (6) contract for and accept a gift, grant, contribution, or loan of money, property, or other aid for community assistance from a governmental unit, the federal government, or another source and comply with the terms and conditions of that aid;