

Departments

6-406.

The Office of Economic Opportunity shall develop and implement the following programs:

(1) An emergency energy crisis intervention program to prevent low income households, including the near poor, the elderly, and those on fixed incomes from experiencing danger to health or survival as a result of a utility disconnection or a lack of fuel. The Office shall establish intake procedures for those experiencing an energy emergency and guidelines for the income eligibility and the program eligibility of applicants. In developing these guidelines, the Office may adopt the procedures of the federal "Emergency Energy Conservation Program" in § 222(a)(12) of the "Community Services Act of 1974." Local offices for administering the crisis intervention program shall be identified by the Energy Assistance and Information [office] OFFICE. An emergency fund shall be established to pay fuel and utility vendors who have provided service to persons qualifying for the crisis intervention program. The amount of assistance shall be based on need, with a maximum of \$250 per year to any qualifying household. Where possible, all existing assistance programs concerned with energy emergencies shall be administered by the Maryland Office of Economic Opportunity.

[(2) A State weatherization program to provide funds for insulation materials and installation costs to eligible households. Households shall qualify for the weatherization program allotments based on income and program eligibility guidelines established by the coordinator.]

[(3)] (2) A fuel and utility assistance program to make payments on behalf of qualified households in order to defray fuel and utility costs. Program and income eligibility guidelines are determined by the coordinator. The amount of assistance shall be based on need.

10-705.

(a) The Commission shall meet at the times and places that it determines.

(b) A member of the Commission:

(1) May not receive compensation; but

(2) Is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.