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Policies & Procedures

Next Gen update

Next Gen Updates & index, training slides, energy vendor and mechanical contractor tools, etc. are here: <https://mn-commerce.box.com/s/iq4dq5nrytkpmpkissaut5dwqa6t88>

Past due Crisis eligibility reminder

This is a reminder that households with Cold Weather Rule payment plans or participating in affordability programs like PowerOn or GAP are eligible for Crisis if they have a past due balance.

eHEAT reports clarification

Exports in the Report tab expire after 10 calendar days. This issue was first noted with CAP60 reports but is true of all reports. Staff should download the CAP60 reports on a weekly basis. Please contact ehat.doc@state.mn.us to request any missed reports.

Admin & A16 update

Commerce EAP and fiscal are working to distribute the Service Provider Admin and Assurance 16 funding from the remaining \$10.5M of FFY21 federal funding. Commerce hopes to disburse the funds by the week's end.

Commerce designated for water assistance

The December 2020 coronavirus relief bill includes \$638 million for a new program to help low-income families pay their drinking water and wastewater utility bills. In March 2021, Governor Walz designated the Minnesota Department of Commerce's Energy Assistance Program (EAP) as the program's administrator. Commerce expects additional federal guidance soon. Commerce EAP will work with Service Providers on program implementation details.

At the federal level, this program is the Low Income Water Assistance Program (LIWAP). This may be confused with WAP, so **we want a different name for Minnesota's water assistance program. Send your suggestions to eap.mail@state.mn.us.**

Federal bill includes LIHEAP funds

On Saturday, March 6, the U.S. Senate passed a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package (American Rescue Plan) that includes \$4.5 billion for LIHEAP. The House is likely to pass the bill soon so President Biden can sign the bill before unemployment aid programs run out on March 14.

Commerce EAP MinnCAP presentation

The information Commerce EAP staff provided for MinnCAP’s March 2 meeting is attached.

Commerce EAP outreach

These are recent EAP-related Commerce Twitter and Facebook posts:

 **MN Dept. of Commerce @MNCommerce · 4h** ***
 The MN Energy Assistance Program administered by @MNCommerce will increase the maximum annual crisis benefit for qualifying households from \$600 to \$1,200, following the February arctic blast via @ifallsjournal ow.ly/LhHo50DPxW3



 **MN Dept. of Commerce @MNCommerce · Mar 8** ***
 State leaders increase energy assistance as Minnesota homeowners face \$200 to \$400 natural gas surcharge via @Sarah_Danik and @FOX9



State leaders increase assistance as Minnesota homeowners face \$200 ...
 The cold spell that the Midwest and south faced earlier this month put a strain on energy resources and is now leading to some homeowners ...
 fox9.com

 **MN Dept. of Commerce @MNCommerce · Mar 6** ***
 Helping Minnesotans who need help. MN Department of Commerce’s Energy Assistance Program doubles crisis benefits to \$1,200 per household for eligible Minnesotans struggling with heating costs following February cold snap. ow.ly/fghm50DPxiD



 **MN Dept. of Commerce @MNCommerce · Mar 3** ***
 ICYMI: Minnesota Department of Commerce’s Energy Assistance Program doubles crisis benefits to \$1,200 per household for eligible Minnesotans struggling with heating costs following February cold snap. ow.ly/PDvH50DPxet



 **MN Dept. of Commerce @MNCommerce · Mar 2** ***
 Energy Assistance Program doubles crisis benefits to \$1,200 per household for Minnesotans struggling with heating costs following February cold snap. Read more: mn.gov/commerce/media...



Notices

EAP in the news

[Minnesota Energy Assistance Program doubles crisis benefits](#)

Wadena Pioneer Journal

Following the February arctic blast, the Minnesota Department of Commerce will increase the maximum annual crisis benefit for qualifying households from \$600 to \$1,200...

[Minnesota offering more energy assistance in wake of severe winter weather](#)

Minnesota Public Radio News

Minnesotans can get extra help paying their energy bills, following February's bitter cold snap that drove up energy costs around the country...

[Minnesota Energy Assistance Program doubles crisis benefits](#)

Park Rapids Enterprise

Households can qualify for up to \$1,200 for past utility bills, disconnections and emergency fuel deliveries....

[Low Income Homeowners in Need Can Access Energy Assistance Funds in Wright County](#)

Patch.com

The maximum crisis benefit for qualifying households has doubled from \$600 to \$1,200. Crisis benefits are used to cover past-due utility bills, for utility disconnections and for emergency fuel deliveries....

[Low-income Minnesotans Slammed with High Heat Bills Get Aid](#)

Public News Service

Last month's deep freeze in Minnesota required more than extra layers of clothing; people cranked up the heat to stay warm, likely resulting in higher energy bills. New financial assistance now is available for low-income households to cover the extra heating expense....

[If you need help with utility bills, there's a program that can help](#)

Fox 47

"Energy assistance helps people pay for their heat and electric. And it can be renters and homeowners," said Lynette Stott, Energy Programs Coordinator for Three Rivers Community Action. Three Rivers provides support for individuals in need with Rochester, Zumbrota, Faribault, and Wabasha areas...

[MN Doubles Financial Assistance To Cover Winter Utility Costs](#)

Patch.com

Energy Assistance Program funds can also be used to help households pay power bills, repair or replace broken heating systems and learn about efficiency and safety...

[State leaders increase assistance as Minnesota homeowners face \\$200 to \\$400 natural gas surcharge](#)

Fox 9

The cold spell that the Midwest and south faced earlier this month put a strain on energy resources and is now leading to some homeowners facing a surcharge for natural gas...