



# Weatherization Leveraged Partnerships Project

The project offers training and assistance for all WAP subgrantees in designing private partnerships and programs that leverage their local WAP expertise.

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- The WAP Network brings value to potential partnerships
- Success – increased impact of EE services for low-income households
- Our team can help with “start up” and new challenges in existing programs
  - Resources to share
  - Connection with experienced peers
  - Trainings and webinars like this one!

*The Goal is Braided Funding Streams for a Larger Program with Greater Impact*



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# Protecting Utility Consumers in the Fast- Changing Markets: Community Action's Role

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Community Action Partnership  
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## Why is Utility Affordability Important?

- Safety
- Economic Independence
- Financial Stability
- Health / Healthcare
- Child Custody / Dependency
- Retain Housing
- Ability to Afford Other Life Necessities

# Energy Burdens

## (Pennsylvania)

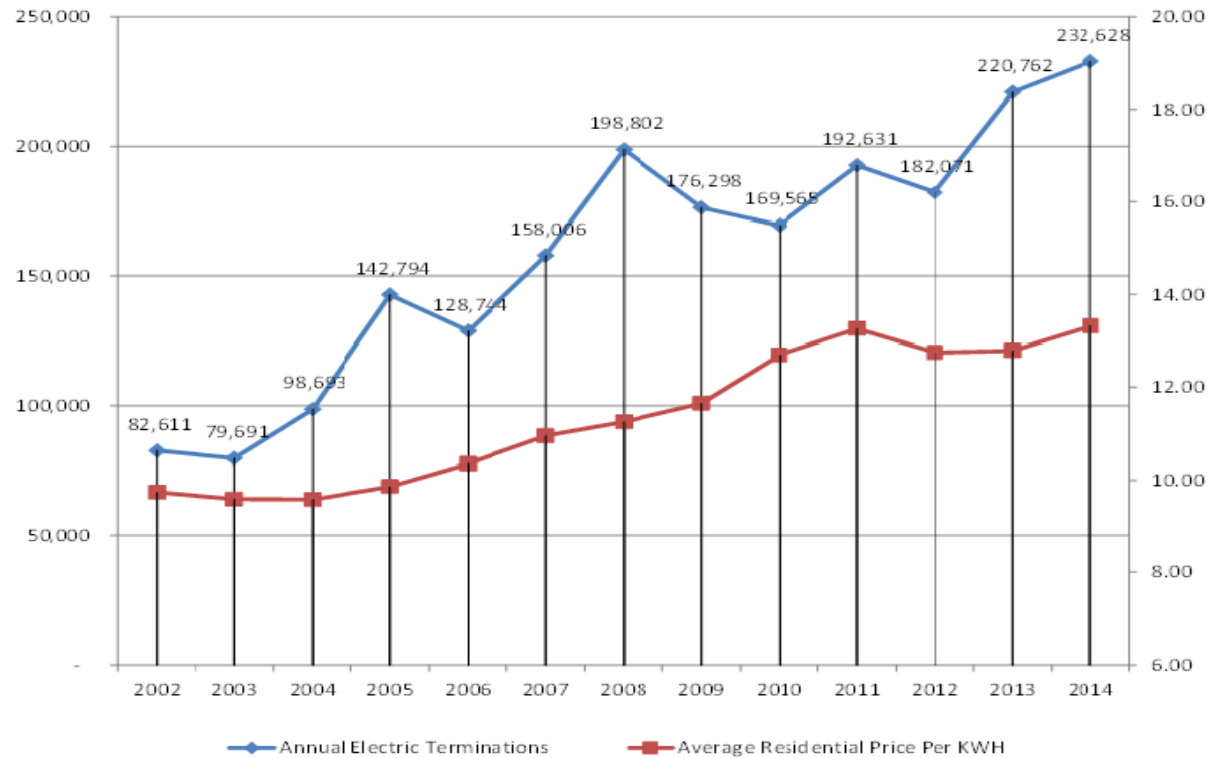
An “energy burden” is the percentage of annual income that goes toward paying energy bills.

Poverty Level	2015 Pennsylvania Home Energy Burdens	Number of Households
Below 50%	30%	299,673
50-100%	16%	371,656
100-125%	11%	205,521
125-150%	9%	215,664
150-185%	7%	307,011
185-200%	7%	131,879

Middle to High Income Households = 3% to 5%

# Electric / Gas Terminations: Price of Commodity (Pennsylvania)

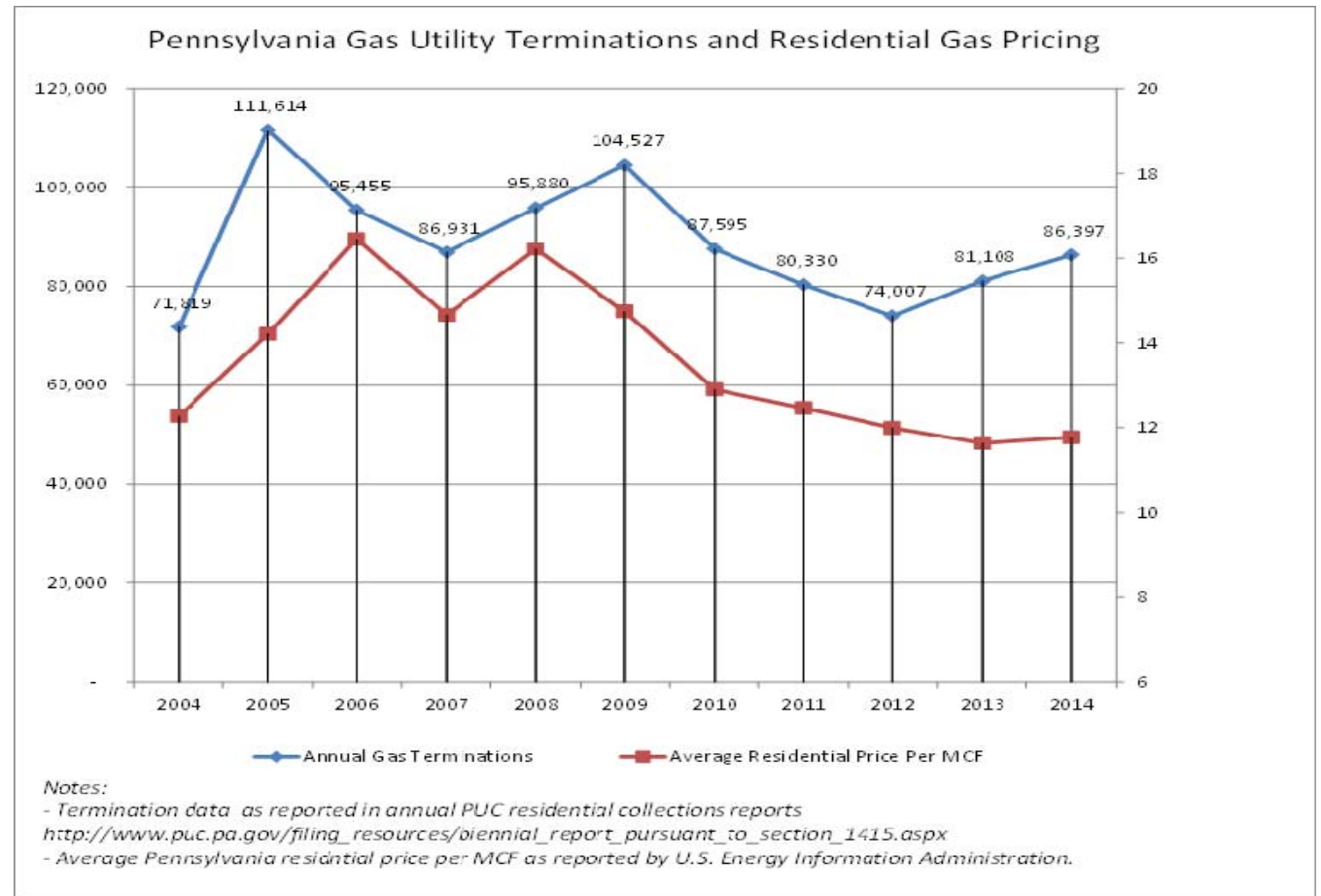
Pennsylvania Electric Utility Terminations and Residential Electricity Pricing



**Notes:**

- Termination data as reported in annual PUC residential collections reports  
[http://www.puc.pa.gov/filing\\_resources/biennial\\_report\\_pursuant\\_to\\_section\\_1415.aspx](http://www.puc.pa.gov/filing_resources/biennial_report_pursuant_to_section_1415.aspx)
- Average Pennsylvania residential price per kWh as reported by U.S. Energy Information Administration.

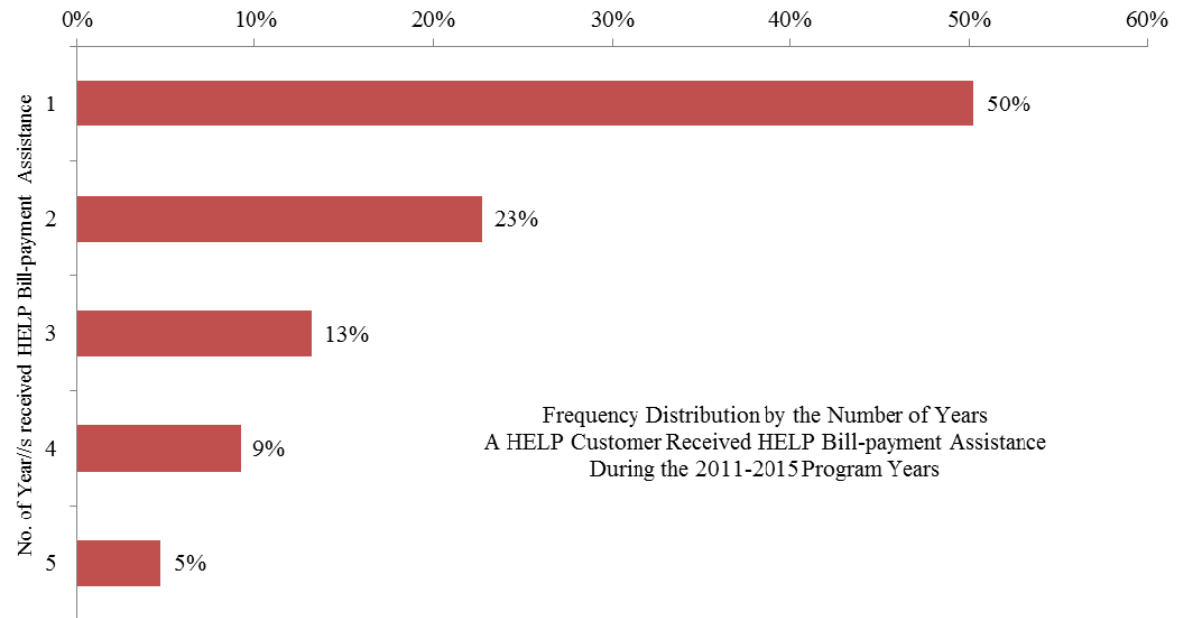
# Electric / Gas Terminations: Price of Commodity (Pennsylvania)



# Availability of Assistance

(Washington State)

In WA State, we generally estimate that 20%-25% of eligible households are served with energy assistance programs annually. Of those served, many are unable to access the assistance on a regular basis due to demand. With out changes to the utility's rate design, program structure, or the household's finances energy burdens remain extremely high among low and very low-income households.





## Why engage in state utility commission proceedings?

- The low-income households are profoundly affected by state utility commission decisions.
- “If you aren’t at the table, you are on the menu.”
- Other interests may say they are acting in the interest of low-income consumers.

## Different Types of Proceedings

- Adjudicatory
  - Litigated or Comment-Only Proceedings
- Rulemaking
- Generic / Statewide Investigations
- Informal

## What is Involved with Intervention?

### Different levels of engagement

- Track Issues
- Provide Informal Feedback
- Participate in Stakeholder Meetings
- Serve on Advisory Panels
- Submit Comments / Letters
- Intervene as a Party
- Work with a Coalition

## Factors to Consider

- What is the effect of this proceeding on low-income households?
- What is the likelihood of success?
- Resources
  - Staff Time
  - Funding
  - Attorney or experts needed?
- Opportunity to join coalition / share the load?

# Building Partnerships

- Legal Services Programs
- AARP
- NAACP
- Local / Statewide Domestic Violence Coalitions
- Disability Rights Groups
- Area Aging Agencies
- Homeless Service Providers
- Veterans Groups
- Housing Providers
- Environmental Justice Advocates

# Funding Opportunities

- LIHEAP & WAP Leveraging
- State Intervenor Funding
- Collaborative Projects with Legal Services Agencies
  - Access to Justice Funding
  - Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Funding
  - Class Action Settlements
  - Other fees (ex: Pro Hac Vice Fees / Filing Fees)
- Community & Economic Development Grants

## Impacts to Funding as a Result of Intervening

- 2016 WA State LIHEAP Energy Assistance Award
  - **\$47.1 million**
- Leveraged Funding from Investor Owned Utilities in 2016 for Energy Assistance in WA State:
  - **\$26,630,032**

**Before 2001, these investor owned utility dollars for energy assistance did not exist. Intervening in utility general rate cases on behalf of low-income households created these funds.**

## Common Issues

- **Universal Service / Low Income Programs**
  - Creation
  - Design
  - Implementation
  - Coordination
- **Types of Programs**
  - Percentage of Income Programs
  - Credit / Discount Based Programs
  - Arrearage Management
  - Energy Efficiency / Weatherization



# Common Issues

- **Base Rate Proceedings**
  - Fixed Charge Proposals
  - Inclining / Declining Block Rates
  - Low Income Programming
  - Allocation of Ratepayer Funded Programming
  - Reconnection Costs
  - Identification Requirements
  - Payment Agreement Terms
  - Disconnection Terms

## Common Issues

- **Deregulation Dockets**
  - Marketing Regulations
  - Customer Privacy
  - Notice Requirements
  - Cost-Control Measures
  - Low Income Shopping Protections

## Common Issues

- **Credit / Collections / Billing Standards**
  - Security Deposit Standards
  - Payment Arrangement Standards
  - Termination Process / Procedures
  - Medical Certification
  - Winter Terminations

## Common Issues

- **Alternative Energy Issues**
  - Cost of Solar / Net Metering
  - Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

## Common Issues

- **Other Common Proceedings**
  - Smart Meter Proceedings
    - prepay service, remote termination, etc.
  - Energy Procurement (Default Service) Plans
  - Mergers / Acquisitions

## Next Steps

- Review Cases for Common / Recurring Utility-Related Issues
- Familiarize Yourself with Current Utility Laws / Policies
- Check out the Commission Website
  - Commissioners, hot topics, open proceedings, schedule
- Reach Out to Potential Partners
  - Locate Partners with Subject Matter Expertise
  - Discuss Shared Training Opportunities
  - Identify Pending Issues & Opportunities to Participate



Questions / Comments?

# Thank you!

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# EVALUATIONS

The Partnership Wants Your Feedback!



Please be sure to **complete** the evaluation for this session **online**, via the **CAPCON17 Event App**.

Thanks in Advance for your Cooperation!