

# PULP (NON) FICTION

*a Pennsylvania Utility Law Project publication*

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Utility Hotline 844-645-2500



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## LIHEAP UFT PROGRAM AND SUMMER SUPPLEMENTS

Customers who received LIHEAP during the 2020/2021 season and are currently at risk of service termination or are without service should immediately contact their utility company and ask to be put on their Utility File Transfer (UFT) list. Those customers could be eligible to receive up to \$1200 to prevent termination. Don't delay! The UFT deadline is **this Friday, September 17**.

Customers who received a grant towards **deliverable fuel** in the 2020/2021 LIHEAP season will receive a \$200 supplemental payment. This supplement will automatically go to the vendor by October 13. Customers should call their vendor to confirm the credit and schedule a delivery.

A \$250 supplemental grant for 2020/2021 LIHEAP recipients with a **vulnerable household member** (under 5, over 60, or disabled) should have already been automatically applied to their utility account.

## LIHEAP 2021/2022 OPENS OCTOBER 18!

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) opens early this year! This annual program is available to consumers with income at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Level. Consumers can apply for cash grants, crisis grants, and crisis interface, which can repair or replace a broken furnace.

The minimum and maximum grant levels have been increased for this year! All cash grant recipients will receive a minimum grant of \$500. The maximum crisis grant has been increased to \$1200.

LIHEAP applications will be available online at <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/> or by calling 866-857-7095. For detailed information about LIHEAP, access our LIHEAP manual [here](#) – we will release an updated manual for the 2021-2022 program year soon!

## **UPCOMING WEBINARS: September 30, 2021 & October 15, 2021**

### **Water and Utility Assistance in Northeastern Pennsylvania**

Thursday, September 30 @ 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

[Register Here](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dyAh5mkhRoedAWN7d8xjFA) ([https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_dyAh5mkhRoedAWN7d8xjFA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dyAh5mkhRoedAWN7d8xjFA))

This webinar is targeted to advocates, utility providers, and community-based organizations in Northeast Pennsylvania. The focus will be on the availability of water assistance and other forms of utility assistance in the area. A representative from Lehigh County Authority will join to share information about the progress the authority has made in developing its customer assistance program and other customer service improvements. While the presentation will be focused on Northeastern Pennsylvania, all are welcome to attend and the information will be relevant and useful statewide.

### **LIHEAP 2020-2021 Program Review**

Friday, October 15 @ 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

[Register Here](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_o1Woho4YQ_C22R9CDT6o4w) ([https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_o1Woho4YQ\\_C22R9CDT6o4w](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_o1Woho4YQ_C22R9CDT6o4w))

Join PULP and Community Legal Services (CLS) for our annual LIHEAP program review! Ria Pereira, PULP Supervising Attorney, and Lydia Gottesfeld, CLS Supervising Attorney, will walk participants through changes to the program, answer common LIHEAP questions, and provide advocacy tips for assisting households to access assistance through the program. Participants will also receive updates on the status of various other federal assistance programs, and we will be sure to leave time for all your questions at the end. This webinar is open to all, please help spread the word!

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION to SHARE**

PULP created infographics and brochures about LIHEAP, ERAP, tips to prevent service termination, and area specific assistance programs. They can be found [here](#). Please browse the catalog of documents and print/distribute them to others.

## **PULP Staffing Updates:**

On April 4, 2021 PULP welcomed Lauren Berman, Attorney, to our staff. Before joining PULP, Lauren was with the Fair Housing Law Center, a project of Southwestern Pennsylvania Legal Aid. For her complete story, visit her post on our [blog](#).

On August 23, 2021 we welcomed Giovanna Brackbill, Utility Justice Project Manager, back to PULP! While in law school, Gio was one of PULP's MLK fellows – and she returned to work for us part time last Fall to help us with emergency pandemic response. See that blog post [here](#). We are excited to bring Gio on board full time to lead our new Utility Justice Project, focused on serving Communities of Color and Immigrant Communities in Northeast Pennsylvania to help address disparities in utility access and affordability.

## **Contact the Pennsylvania Utility Law Project:**

### **ICYMI (In Case You Missed It)**

PULP has a new domain for our email and website. We are now @pautilitylawproject.org and [www.pautilitylawproject.org](http://www.pautilitylawproject.org).

### **Contact for Advocates**

Advocates can contact PULP with questions about how to assist a client to connect, maintain, or prevent termination of their electric, natural gas, or water utility account.

412-710-7330 (Kristen) / [pulp@pautilitylawproject.org](mailto:pulp@pautilitylawproject.org)

### **Contact for Clients**

Low income clients who are unable to connect to service or are facing a utility termination can call the Utility Hotline for assistance with resolving their utility issue.

Toll Free: 1-844-645-2500 / [utilityhotline@pautilitylawproject.org](mailto:utilityhotline@pautilitylawproject.org)

### **PULP**

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