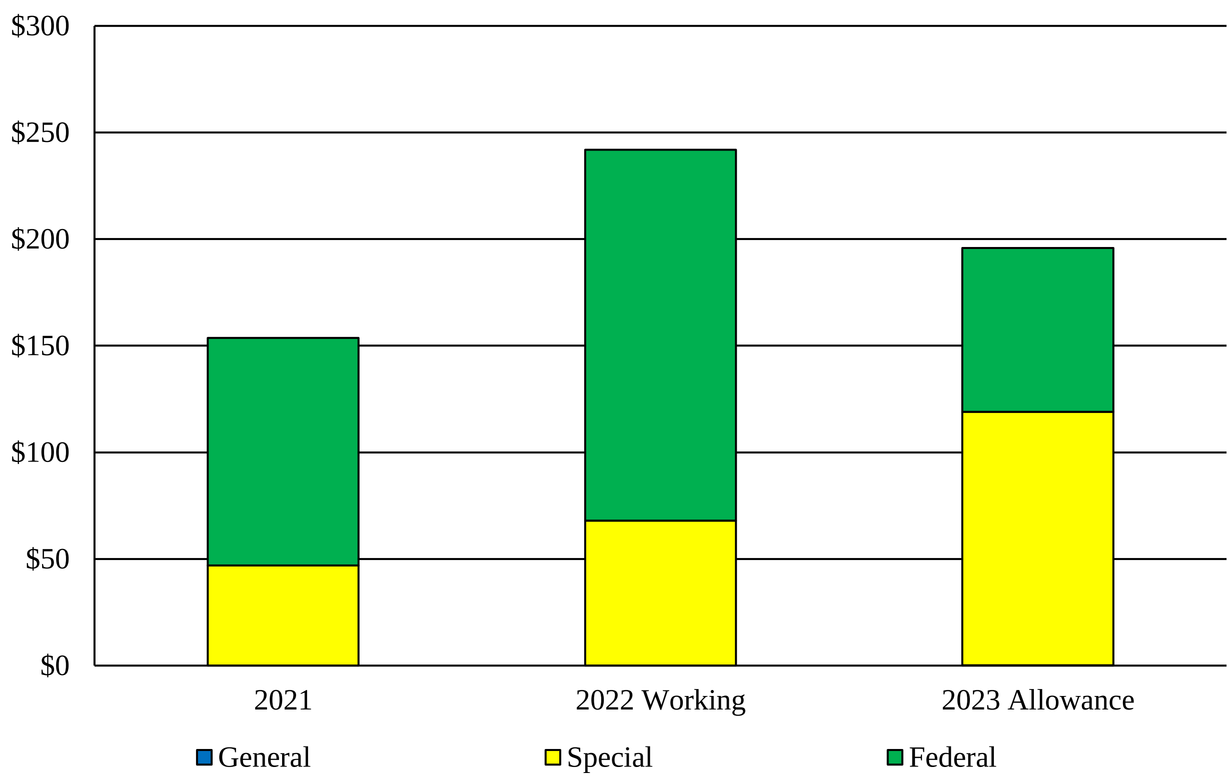
N00I0006
Office of Home Energy Programs
Department of Human Services

Executive Summary

The Office of Home Energy Programs (OHEP) within the Department of Human Services (DHS) Family Investment Administration (FIA) primarily provides energy assistance benefits in the form of bill payment assistance for electric and heating customers and arrearage assistance to electric and natural gas customers.

Operating Budget Summary

Fiscal 2023 Budget Decreases $46 Million, or 19%, to $195.9 Million
($ in Millions)



Note: Numbers may not sum due to rounding. The fiscal 2022 working appropriation includes deficiency appropriations. The fiscal 2022 working appropriation and fiscal 2023 allowance do not reflect funding for statewide personnel actions budgeted in the Department of Budget and Management, which include cost-of-living adjustments, increments, bonuses, and may include annual salary review adjustments.

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- Federal funds in the fiscal 2023 allowance decrease primarily due to two proposed fiscal 2022 deficiency appropriations totaling $87.6 million, which incorporate federal stimulus funds for energy and water assistance.

- This decrease is partially offset by an increase in special funds from the Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF) of $51 million in the fiscal 2023 allowance, due to increases in available revenue resulting from growth in Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) auction proceeds.

- The fiscal 2023 allowance includes $80,000 in general funds as mandated by Chapters 453 and 454 of 2021 to support the Power to the People Pilot Program and $569,885 in federal funds as mandated by Chapters 638 and 639 of 2021 representing unspent funds budgeted for arrearage assistance in fiscal 2021.

Key Observations

- ***Energy Assistance Applications Increased Following Expiration of the Utility Termination Moratorium:*** Total applications for energy assistance benefits in fiscal 2021 increased by 9% compared to fiscal 2020, corresponding with the expiration of the utility termination moratorium in November 2020. However, the total number of households receiving benefits through the Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) and Electric Universal Services Program (EUSP) bill payment assistance programs continued to decline during fiscal 2021. Applications returned to a declining trend in fiscal 2022 through November, and the total number of households receiving benefits continues to decline for three out of four benefit programs.

- ***New Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) Funding:*** The federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) of 2020 and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 included funding for the new LIHWAP and allocated a total of $14.1 million to DHS for the program's establishment in Maryland. DHS has submitted a model plan to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and has indicated that it is currently working to develop the new program, which will provide water and wastewater bill payment and arrearage assistance to eligible applicants.

- ***Federal Stimulus Funding and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Funding Allocated to Maryland:*** Additional federal stimulus funding totaling $87.6 million is allocated through two fiscal 2022 deficiency appropriations. Funding supports the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and LIHWAP energy and water assistance programs. These funds are in addition to the $38.8 million in federal stimulus funds already allocated in the budget in fiscal 2021 and 2022 for energy assistance. The fiscal 2023 allowance also includes $0.6 million of stimulus funds. Additionally, the recently passed federal IIJA includes an allocation of $1.5 million in supplemental LIHEAP funding for Maryland in federal fiscal 2022.

Operating Budget Recommended Actions

1. Adopt committee narrative requesting a report on energy assistance application processing times and denial rates.

2. Adopt committee narrative requesting an update on the status of implementation of categorical eligibility.

3. Adopt committee narrative requesting a report on the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program.

Updates

- ***Energy Assistance Processing Times:*** The statewide average number of days to process applications for energy assistance was 22 days in fiscal 2022 through November 1, the same number of days as in the same reporting period in fiscal 2021. Increases in processing times occurred in 12 local administering agencies (LAA), while 8 saw decreases. In addition, 5 LAAs had average processing times over 30 days, while 10 had average processing times of fewer than 20 days. Statewide, 7% of applications were processed in longer than 55 days, a 5 percentage point increase from the same reporting period in fiscal 2021. The number of LAAs with at least 1% of applications processed in longer than 55 days increased from 5 to 12 during this time period.

- ***Implementation of Categorical Eligibility:*** DHS has indicated that it has begun to take steps in order to implement categorical eligibility for energy assistance benefits. DHS estimates that OHEP will be fully integrated into its new Eligibility and Enrollment (E&E) System (part of the Maryland Total Human Services Information Network System), which is used for eligibility determinations for other cash assistance programs, by the first quarter of fiscal 2023. DHS also has a goal of realigning administration of OHEP programs under its local department of social services (LDSS), with a goal of establishing a unified LDSS administrative model by July 1, 2023.

Operating Budget Analysis

Program Description

OHEP is a program of DHS FIA. The services of OHEP include cash benefits, budget counseling, referrals, and heating/cooling equipment repair and replacement (through the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)). OHEP administers two energy assistance programs for residential customers: (1) MEAP provides bill payment assistance, natural gas arrearage assistance, and crisis assistance for a variety of heat sources and for electric customers; and (2) EUSP provides bill payment and arrearage assistance to electric customers. MEAP is funded by the federal LIHEAP. EUSP is funded by a combination of sources: (1) a ratepayer surcharge on electric bills; (2) an allocation of revenue from RGGI carbon dioxide emission allowance auctions (budgeted through SEIF); and (3) when available, if needed, LIHEAP.

These programs are administered using LAA, which are primarily LDSS, community action agencies (CAA), or local government offices in each county and Baltimore City. Two LAAs serve multiple counties: (1) the Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action Committee, Inc. serves Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties; and (2) ShoreUp! Inc. serves Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester counties. All other LAAs serve one jurisdiction.

DHS has one key goal related to the work of OHEP, which is that Maryland residents have access to essential services to support themselves and their families.

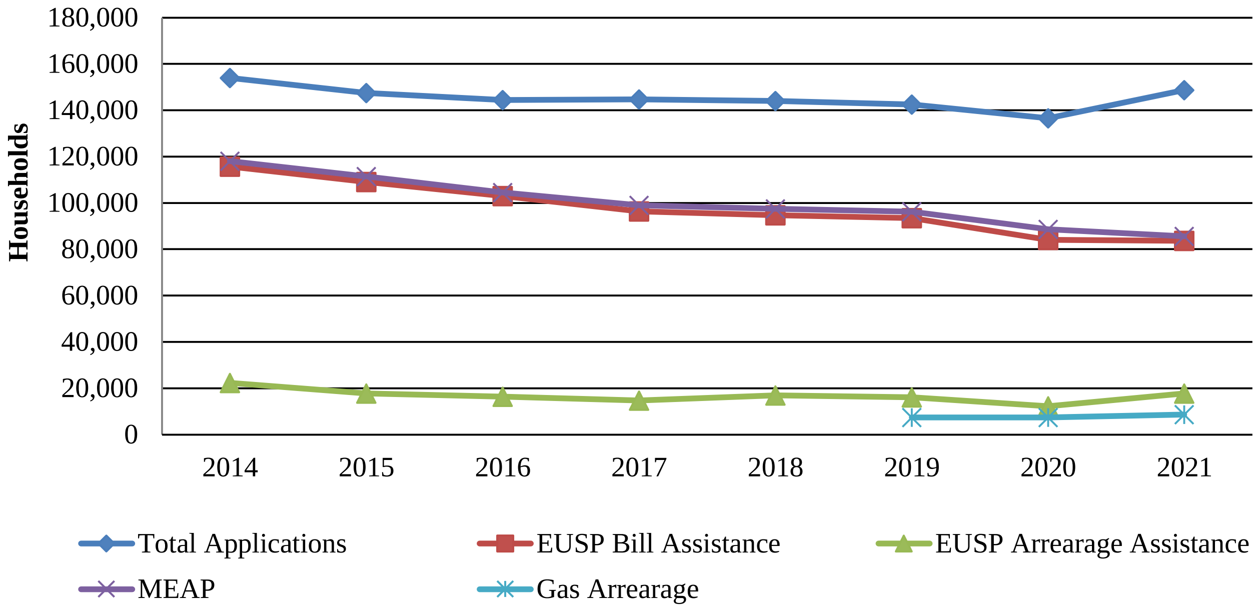
Performance Analysis: Managing for Results

1. Applications Increase Following End of Utility Moratorium

OHEP offers four primary cash benefit programs for energy assistance: (1) electric bill payment assistance through EUSP; (2) electric arrearage assistance through EUSP; (3) bill payment assistance for heating fuels through MEAP; and (4) gas arrearage assistance. In fiscal 2021, DHS also provided supplemental arrearage assistance with funds available from federal COVID-19 relief funding, which was received by approximately 25,728 recipients.

As shown in **Exhibit 1**, total applications for energy assistance benefits increased by 9% in fiscal 2021 compared to fiscal 2020, the first increase in applications since fiscal 2017. This was also the largest year-over-year percent increase since fiscal 2010. Applications began to exceed prior year levels in November 2020, corresponding to the end of the utility termination moratorium that was in effect from March 16, 2020, through November 15, 2020. Although the moratorium caused total applications to decrease at a greater rate in fiscal 2020 than in prior fiscal years, applications rebounded following its expiration and throughout the remainder of fiscal 2021, reflective of the resumption of collection activities and heightened demand for energy assistance. DHS notes that about half of applications are accompanied by a utility termination notice.

Exhibit 1
Energy Assistance Benefits Provision History
Fiscal 2014-2021



EUSP: Electric Universal Service Program
MEAP: Maryland Energy Assistance Program

Source: Department of Human Services

The increase in applications in fiscal 2021 occurred for all benefit programs, but the percentage increase was the greatest for the two arrearage assistance programs. At the end of the fiscal year, applications for EUSP arrearage assistance were 43.1% higher, and applications for gas arrearage assistance were 22.1% higher than at the end of fiscal 2020. Applications for the two bill payment assistance programs were also both elevated, a 9% increase for MEAP and a 7.9% increase for EUSP over fiscal 2020 levels.

However, despite these relatively large percentage increases in applications, only the arrearage assistance programs experienced an increase in the number of households receiving benefits, while the number of recipients of MEAP and EUSP bill payment assistance continued to decline. The total number of households receiving MEAP benefits decreased by 3.4%, and the total number of households receiving EUSP bill payment assistance declined by 0.4%. The number of recipients for both programs has declined each year for the past seven years, and the fiscal 2021 numbers were the lowest totals for both programs since fiscal 2005.

2. Applications Year to Date Decline, But Average Benefit Amounts Increase

As shown in **Exhibit 2**, fiscal 2022 applications through November 2021 for energy assistance have returned to a declining trend following increases in fiscal 2021 and are significantly lower than the same period in the previous year (greater than 35% for each bill payment program) despite that period in fiscal 2021 being a relatively low period of applications for those programs. Year-over-year declines are the largest in two arrearage programs, with applications for EUSP arrearage assistance declining by 46% and gas arrearage assistance declining by 59.7%. As noted earlier, applications for the two arrearage assistance programs increased significantly during fiscal 2021 following the end of the utility termination moratorium, but these increases did not continue into fiscal 2022.

Exhibit 2
Energy Assistance Applications and Benefit Data
Fiscal 2021-2022
(July through November in Each Year)

	2021	2022	Change	% Change
Applications				
MEAP	84,478	52,197	-32,281	-38.2%
EUSP Bill Payment	79,755	50,386	-29,369	-36.8%
EUSP Arrearage	31,434	16,973	-14,461	-46.0%
Gas Arrearage	18,536	7,473	-11,063	-59.7%
Receiving Benefits				
MEAP	40,110	36,164	-3,946	-9.8%
EUSP Bill Payment	39,607	35,458	-4,149	-10.5%
EUSP Arrearage	4,556	5,715	1,159	25.4%
Gas Arrearage	2,143	1,701	-442	-20.6%
Percent of Bill Paid (Lowest Income Level)				
MEAP Natural Gas and Bulk Fuels	95%	95%	0%	
MEAP Electric Heat (No EUSP)	55%	65%	10%	
MEAP Electric (If Also Receive EUSP)	25%	25%	0%	
EUSP Bill Payment Assistance	55%	65%	10%	
Average Benefit				
MEAP	$510	$829	$319	62.5%
EUSP Bill Payment	$471	$733	$262	55.6%
EUSP Arrearage	$906	$950	$44	4.9%
Gas Arrearage	$669	$787	$118	17.6%
Benefits Paid ($ in Millions)				
MEAP	$20.5	$30.0	$9.5	46.5%
EUSP Bill Payment	$18.7	$26.0	$7.3	39.3%
EUSP Arrearage	$4.1	$5.4	$1.3	31.3%
Gas Arrearage	$1.4	$1.3	-$0.1	-6.7%
Total Benefits Paid	**$44.7**	**$62.7**	**$18.0**	**40.4%**

EUSP: Electric Universal Service Program MEAP: Maryland Energy Assistance Program

Source: Department of Human Services; Public Service Commission; Department of Legislative Services

Consistent with the fiscal 2022 year-over-year decreases in applications, the number of households receiving benefits was also lower for three of the four energy assistance programs at the end of November 2021. The number of households receiving EUSP arrearage assistance, however, was 25.4% higher than the previous year.

Average benefit amounts have increased for all energy assistance programs, with the largest increases occurring in MEAP benefits (62.5% higher) and EUSP bill payment assistance (55.6% higher). These increases are reflective of increasing energy costs, as well as enhanced benefit levels for both programs. Enhanced benefit levels reflect the additional availability of LIHEAP funding in fiscal 2022, as well as a higher percentage of bills paid for the EUSP program as proposed in the fiscal 2022 EUSP operations plan. Additionally, on January 14, 2022, Governor Lawrence J. Hogan Jr. announced an increase of minimum benefit levels for the two bill payment assistance programs in fiscal 2022, raising the minimum MEAP benefit level from $300 to $500 and the minimum EUSP benefit level from $150 to $300. At the current rate, average MEAP and EUSP bill payment assistance benefits would be some of the highest in program history, as the average benefit amount for either program has rarely exceeded $600 in the past decade. Governor Hogan also announced a supplemental benefit would be provided to low-income households that will further increase bill payment assistance benefits. This supplemental benefit will be issued to utilities on behalf of customers and applied over a six-month billing period in both fiscal 2022 and 2023. DHS estimates that this supplemental benefit will equal approximately $83 per month in bill assistance per household during the months in fiscal 2022 and 2023 that it is paid out.

Average benefit amounts also increased for both arrearage assistance programs, by 4.9% for EUSP arrearage benefits and 17.6% for gas arrearage benefits. These benefits are based on actual arrearage amounts for customers with past due electric or gas balances of at least $300 but are capped at a maximum of $2,000. Average benefit amounts for arrearage assistance have shown less variation than for bill payment assistance, but they remain at an elevated level in fiscal 2022, even as utility-reported data shows that total average arrears for customers with arrears have declined since peaking at $607 in April 2021. As of November 2021, all five investor-owned utilities reported arrearages per customer decreasing from the average at the end of fiscal 2021. While this data includes customers that would not necessarily qualify for energy assistance due to income or limitations on frequency of receipt, it indicates that the need for arrearage assistance remains elevated even as the total amounts of outstanding arrearages have decreased. This is despite the significant amounts of federal stimulus funds that have been distributed for supplemental arrearage assistance, including $83 million distributed by the Public Service Commission (PSC) in summer 2021 as directed by Chapter 39 of 2021 (the RELIEF Act).

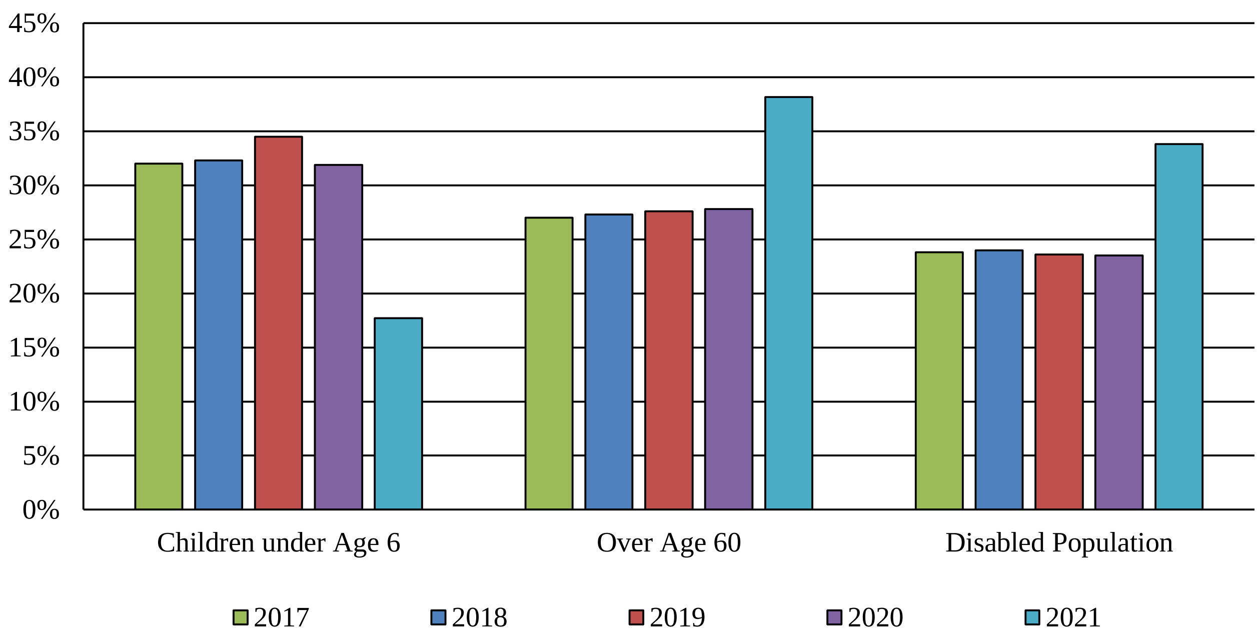
Overall, in fiscal 2022 through November, total spending on energy assistance is approximately 40% higher than fiscal 2021, reflective of increased average benefit levels despite fewer households receiving benefits to date. Total expenditures for benefits were $9.5 million higher for the MEAP program and $7.3 million higher for the EUSP bill payment program. OHEP has a notably higher amount of funding available for benefits in fiscal 2022 due to the availability of supplemental federal LIHEAP funding allocated to Maryland from the ARPA. **DHS should comment on any factors impacting the year-to-date decreases in applications and total numbers of households receiving energy assistance as well as outreach efforts to ensure eligible households received these benefits given the high level of total funding available due to supplemental federal stimulus funds.**

3. Participation Rates for Vulnerable Adults

As part of its annual Managing for Results submission, DHS calculates the percent of eligible households that receive energy assistance benefits for three vulnerable populations (households with children under age 6, households with an individual over age 60, and households with an individual with a disability). The calculation uses both the participation numbers and information received from the *Low Income Home Energy Assistance Notebook* on the number of households estimated to be eligible for benefits.

As shown in **Exhibit 3**, the share of eligible households receiving benefits in fiscal 2021 increased substantially for households with an individual over age 60 or a disabled individual and decreased substantially for households with children under age 6. DHS indicates that the increases in fiscal 2021 can be attributed to policy changes that took effect during that year, including provisions of Chapters 638 and 639 that extended the deadline for submission of application documents and also extended the income eligibility threshold for households with an individual age 67 or older. Chapters 638 and 639 increased the maximum income eligibility levels for customers in this age group from 175% to 200% of the federal poverty level. **DHS should comment on the number of additional households with an individual age 67 or older that have benefited from the increase in income eligibility for individuals in this age group.**

Exhibit 3
Vulnerable Populations Receiving Energy Assistance Benefits
Fiscal 2017-2021



Source: Department of Human Services; Governor's Fiscal 2023 Budget Books

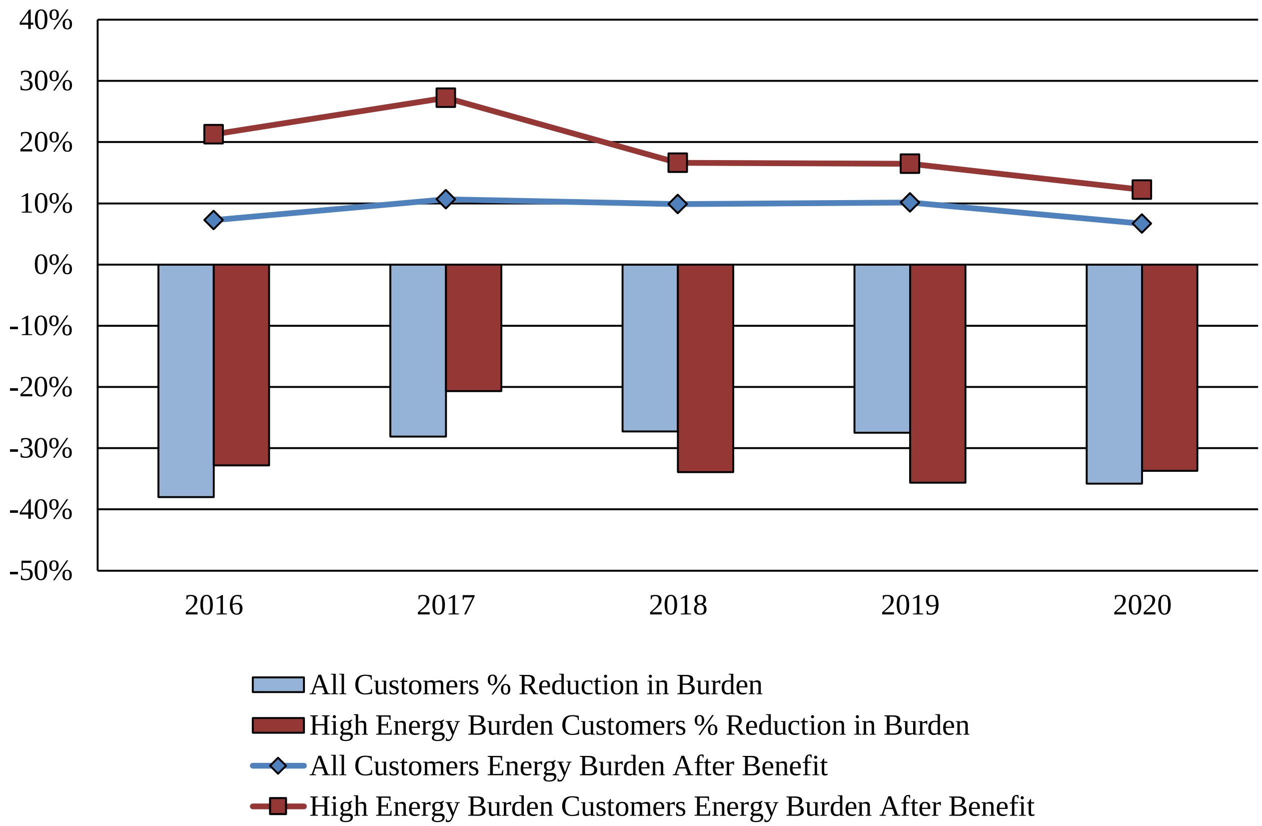
DHS indicates that the decrease to households with children under age 6 can be attributed to lesser need from this group due to other pandemic-related benefits available to households with children. Typical outreach activities conducted by LAAs targeted to families with young children were also impacted by pandemic-related closures of schools, child care centers, Head Start programs, and other related child care programming.

4. Benefit Targeting and Energy Burden Reduction

Beginning with data for federal fiscal 2016, HHS required states to report on new performance measures for LIHEAP. These performance measures focus on how well states are targeting energy assistance benefits with the highest energy burden (energy cost compared to income) and reducing energy burdens, particularly among high energy burden households (burdens in the top 25% of energy burdens among households that receive bill assistance). Other performance measures include restoration of service and prevention of loss of service due to LIHEAP-funded benefits.

As shown in **Exhibit 4**, in federal fiscal 2020, OHEP benefits funded through LIHEAP reduced the energy burden for all households receiving a benefit by 35.8% and for high energy burden households by 33.7%. Compared to federal fiscal 2019, the energy burden reduction for all households was 8.3 percentage points higher but was 1.9 percentage points lower for high energy burden households. The larger decrease among all households compared to high energy burden households is in part related to larger energy burden reductions for natural gas, fuel oil, and other heating fuel households for all households compared to high energy burden households in federal fiscal 2020. High energy burden households had a higher energy burden after receiving benefits (12.2%) compared to all households (6.7%).

Exhibit 4
Energy Burden Reduction for All Fuel Sources
Federal Fiscal 2016-2020

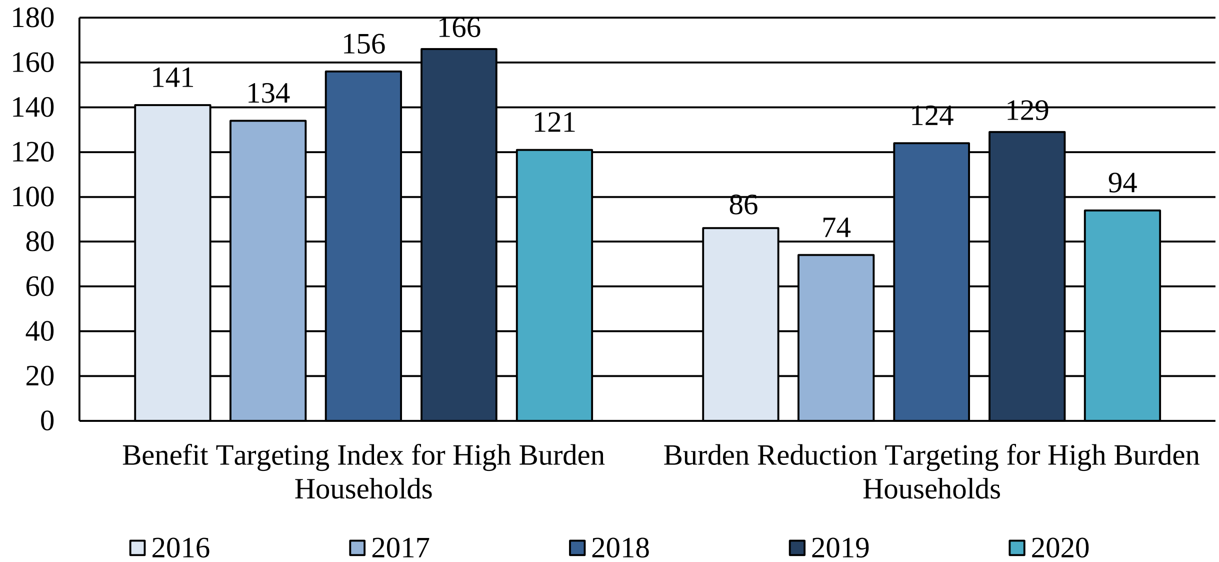


Source: Department of Human Services

The federal performance measures also include a benefit targeting index, which focuses on the extent to which the highest benefits are paid to those with the highest energy burden. A measure of greater than 100 indicates that higher benefits are paid to those with higher burdens, while a measure of less than 100 would indicate that higher benefits are paid to those without the highest burdens. OHEP's formula for determining benefits takes into account annual energy use, cost of energy, income level (through a percentage of bill paid as determined by income relative to the federal poverty level), an index based on utility service territory, a location adjustment (for MEAP only) for Garrett County due to the longer winter heating season, and type of heating fuel (for MEAP only).

As shown in **Exhibit 5**, Maryland's benefit targeting index decreased to 121 in federal fiscal 2020, a 45-point decrease from federal fiscal 2019. However, the benefit targeting index has exceeded 100 in every year since federal fiscal 2016, due to Maryland's benefit calculation formula taking into account energy use and income level. A benefit targeting index score of 121 indicates that households with the highest energy burden saw a 21% higher benefit than all households.

Exhibit 5
Benefit Targeting Index
Federal Fiscal 2016-2020



Source: Department of Human Services

The energy burden reduction index measures the difference in the percentage of the energy burden reduction between high-energy burden households and all households. An index of 100 indicates that these households had the same reduction, while an index over 100 indicates that high energy burden households had a greater reduction. Maryland's burden reduction index declined below 100 in federal fiscal 2020, to 94. As mentioned previously, high energy burden households experienced a lower reduction in energy burden during federal fiscal 2020 compared to all households.

Fiscal 2021 and 2022

Federal Stimulus Funds and Proposed Deficiency Appropriations

The fiscal 2021 federal fund appropriation increased by $19.4 million through a deficiency appropriation that allocated funds from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act to supplement funding for MEAP.

In addition, Supplemental Budget No. 5 to the fiscal 2022 budget provided a total of $20 million in federal stimulus funds from the ARPA for energy assistance ($10 million in each of fiscal 2021 and 2022). This funding was intended to support arrearage and bill assistance provisions of Chapters 638 and 639. Chapters 638 and 639 also mandated that any remaining unspent funds from the fiscal 2021 appropriation be included in the fiscal 2023 allowance. As mandated, the fiscal 2023 allowance includes $569,885 of these unspent funds.

The fiscal 2023 Budget Bill contains two proposed fiscal 2022 federal fund deficiency appropriations for energy assistance benefits that total $87.6 million, providing additional federal stimulus funding. These proposed deficiencies provide:

- $73.5 million in supplemental LIHEAP funds available from the ARPA, which includes approximately $40 million to support supplemental benefits and increases to minimum benefits for MEAP, and approximately $16 million for DHCD weatherization assistance funded through MEAP; and

- $14.1 million in total funding for LIHWAP in order to support the establishment of the program in Maryland. Funding is available from the ARPA and the CRRSA.

With these proposed deficiency appropriations, all funding available to energy and water assistance from federal stimulus legislation will have been appropriated to OHEP. Additional discussion of LIHWAP can be found in Issue 2 of this analysis.

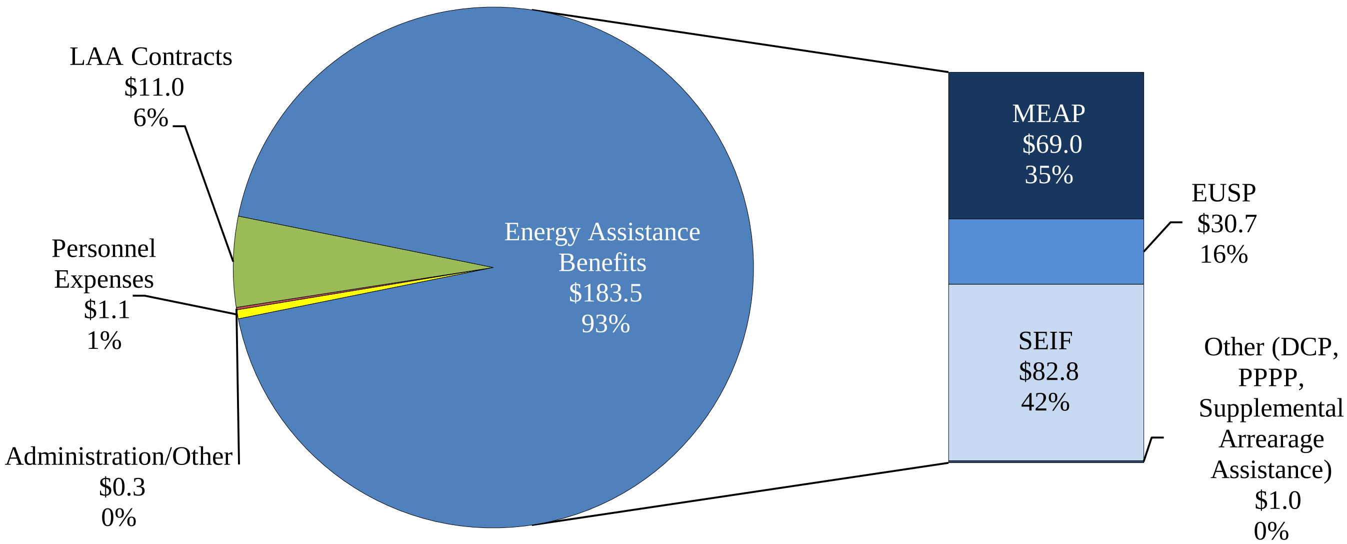
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Funding

In addition to federal stimulus funds, the federal IIJA includes a supplemental appropriation for LIHEAP that totals $500 million ($100 million annually in federal fiscal 2022 through 2026). On January 25, 2022, HHS announced the release of the federal fiscal 2022 funding, from which Maryland receives $1.5 million. However, these funds are not yet reflected in the fiscal 2022 budget. Similar levels are expected to be available for the remaining period, but actual allocations will not be known until future releases by HHS.

Fiscal 2023 Overview of Agency Spending

The fiscal 2023 allowance for OHEP totals $195.9 million. As shown in **Exhibit 6**, 93% of the OHEP budget is for energy assistance benefits. Federal energy assistance benefits, which include furnace repair/replacement by DHCD through MEAP, account for 35% of the budget ($69 million). Electric assistance, provided through the EUSP ratepayer surcharge, SEIF, and a PSC order related to an electric generating facility at Dominion Cove Point, accounts for 58% of the budget ($114 million). The funding level for the EUSP program varies primarily with the availability of RGGI carbon dioxide emission allowance auction revenue and related SEIF fund balance. The other two sources are relatively set amounts, with fluctuations in the ratepayer surcharge portion generally limited to adjustments in the allocations between administrative expenses and benefits. The fiscal 2023 allowance also includes $649,885 in mandated funding, including $80,000 in general funds to support the Power to the People Pilot Program and $569,885 in federal stimulus funds that DHS indicates will support bill payment assistance. The second largest category of spending is for LAA contracts (6%). These contracts provide funding for the local offices that administer the program, which include CAAs, LDSS offices, and local government offices.

Exhibit 6
Overview of Agency Spending
Fiscal 2023 Allowance
($ in Millions)



DCP: Dominion Cove Point
EUSP: Electric Universal Service Program
LAA: Local Administering Agencies
MEAP: Maryland Energy Assistance Program
PPPP: Power to the People Pilot Program
SEIF: Strategic Energy Investment Fund

Note: The fiscal 2023 allowance does not reflect funding for statewide personnel actions budgeted in the Department of Budget and Management, which include cost-of-living adjustments, increments, bonuses, and may include annual salary review adjustments.

Source: Governor's Fiscal 2023 Budget Books

Proposed Budget Change

As shown in **Exhibit 7**, the fiscal 2023 allowance for OHEP decreases by $46 million, or 19%, compared to the fiscal 2022 working appropriation, after accounting for proposed fiscal 2022 deficiency appropriations. Federal funds decrease by approximately $97 million due to one-time supplemental funding for energy assistance. The largest area of increase in the budget is a $51 million increase in SEIF revenues allocated for energy assistance, which partially offsets federal fund decreases. General funds increase by $80,000 to support the Power to the People Pilot Program as mandated by Chapters 453 and 454. This funding is required to be used by DHS, in coordination with the United Way of Central Maryland and the Fuel Fund of Maryland, to expand access to the Critical Medical Needs program, which reduces barriers in applying for energy assistance for critical medically vulnerable individuals and their households. Excluding changes related to energy assistance, budget increases in the fiscal 2023 allowance are minimal, growing by less than 1% from the fiscal 2022 working appropriation.

Exhibit 7
Proposed Budget
Department of Human Services – Office of Home Energy Programs
($ in Thousands)

How Much It Grows:	General Fund	Special Fund	Federal Fund	Total
Fiscal 2021 Actual	$0	$47,019	$106,633	$153,652
Fiscal 2022 Working Appropriation	0	67,999	173,948	241,948
Fiscal 2023 Allowance	80	118,862	76,961	195,904
Fiscal 2022-2023 Amount Change	$80	$50,863	-$96,987	-$46,044
Fiscal 2022-2023 Percent Change		74.8%	-55.8%	-19.0%

Where It Goes:	Change
Personnel Expenses	
Employee and retiree health insurance	$22
Employee retirement contributions	-4
Regular earnings	-24
Other fringe benefit adjustments	-2
Other Changes	
Strategic Energy Investment Fund revenue to support energy assistance benefits	50,870
General funds to support Chapters 453 and 454 of 2021 (Power to the People Pilot Program)	80
Communications expenses for postage and telephone service	11
Federal funds to support supplemental arrearage and bill payment assistance provisions of Chapters 638 and 639 of 2021	-9,430
One-time federal stimulus funding for LIHWAP	-14,062
One-time supplemental federal stimulus funding for LIHEAP	-73,506
Total	**-$46,045**

LIHEAP: Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
LIHWAP: Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

Note: Numbers may not sum to total due to rounding. The fiscal 2022 working appropriation includes deficiency appropriations. The fiscal 2022 working appropriation and fiscal 2023 allowance do not reflect funding for statewide personnel actions budgeted in the Department of Budget and Management, which include cost-of-living adjustments, increments, bonuses, and may include annual salary review adjustments.

Energy Assistance Benefits

In total, funding for energy assistance benefits decreases by $46 million compared to the fiscal 2022 working appropriation. The decrease results primarily from $87.6 million in one-time federal stimulus funding included in two fiscal 2022 deficiency appropriations for the federal LIHEAP and LIHWAP energy assistance benefit programs. In addition, federal stimulus funding available from the ARPA to support bill payment and arrearage assistance benefits declines by an additional $9.4 million. These decreases are partially offset by a $50.9 million increase in special funds allocated from the SEIF due to revenue growth from RGGI auction revenue.

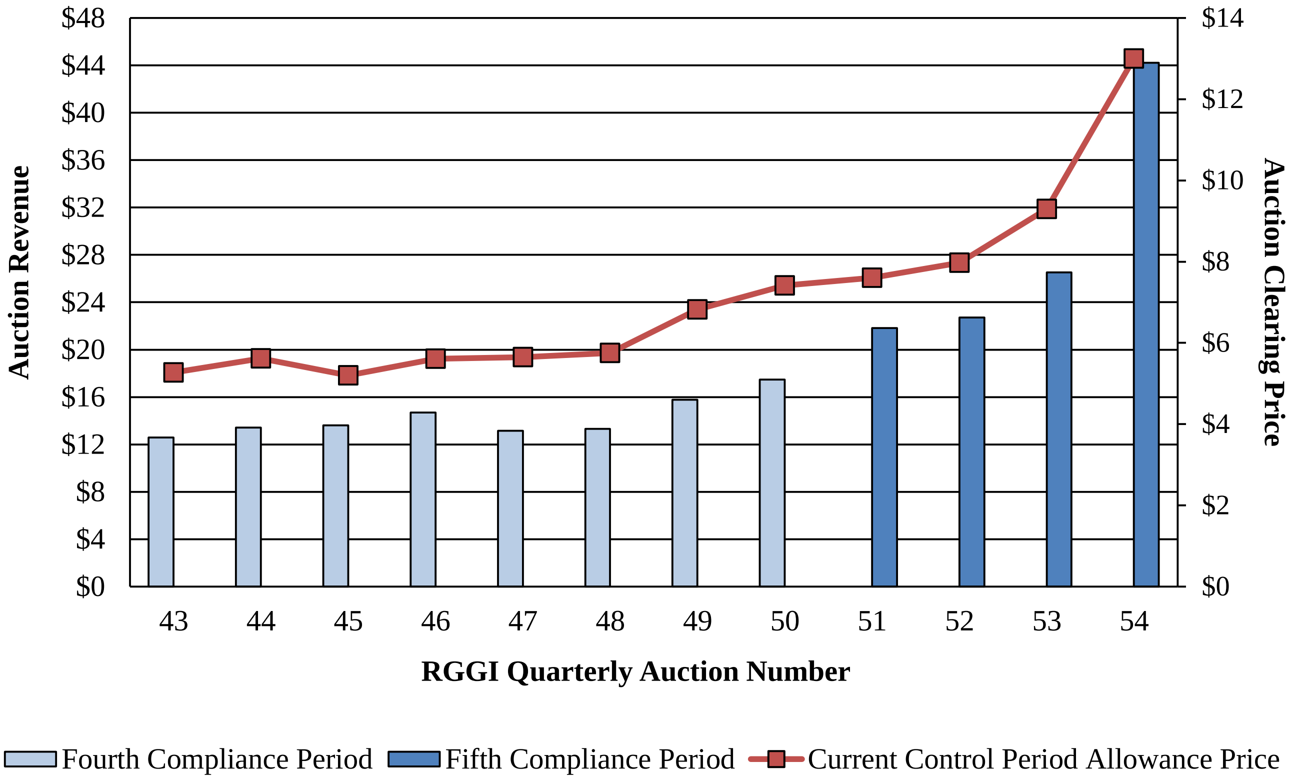
LIHEAP

LIHEAP funding included in OHEP is approximately $76.4 million in the fiscal 2023 allowance, a similar amount as included in the original fiscal 2022 budget. However, LIHEAP funding for fiscal 2022 grows by an additional $73.5 million through a deficiency appropriation, for a total fiscal 2022 working appropriation of nearly $150 million. The majority of LIHEAP funds in the 2023 allowance, approximately $69 million, are budgeted for energy assistance, the same amount as originally budgeted in fiscal 2022. Of the $69 million, approximately $13 million is allocated for furnace repair/replacement in DHCD. The fiscal 2022 working appropriation contains approximately $21 million for this purpose, which includes $16 million contained in the deficiency appropriation. The overall level of LIHEAP funds is consistent with actual spending in fiscal 2021 and the amount budgeted in the fiscal 2022 working appropriation but is higher than the five-year average of spending for energy assistance benefits, excluding one-time stimulus funds, of approximately $62.7 million. The actual amount of funds received varies year to year based on the overall block grant funding and the State share of the grant.

SEIF

Under § 9-20B-05 of the State Government Article, at least 50% of the revenue from RGGI auctions is directed to energy assistance. Since the beginning of the program, RGGI auction revenue has shown substantial variation. However, over the past calendar year, revenues and auction clearing prices have increased significantly. As shown in **Exhibit 8**, in Auction 54 held in December 2021, the auction clearing price was $13.00, and the total auction proceeds received by Maryland reached $44.2 million. The price and proceeds received by Maryland in Auction 54 are the highest in the history of the RGGI program. SEIF revenues available for energy assistance in fiscal 2023 increase by over $50 million, reflecting recent higher revenues and a change in forecasting these funds.

Exhibit 8
Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Revenue
March 2019 to December 2021
($ in Millions)



RGGI: Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

Source: Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, Inc.

Due to the unpredictability of auction clearing prices, the revenue assumed in the budget for many years did not generally align well with actual auction revenue. These variations in some years led to a buildup of fund balance but resulted in mid-year program reductions in other years, including in the energy assistance program. To stabilize the program funding, the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA), the administrator of SEIF, began estimating revenue for the budget using the minimum clearing prices with the actual overattainment of revenue compared to that minimum used in the following fiscal year (for example, fiscal 2021 overattainment is available for fiscal 2023). Beginning with the revenue estimates used in developing the fiscal 2023 budget, MEA altered its revenue projection method by raising its estimated clearing price to $6.50 for future auctions rather than using the minimum clearing price as done in prior fiscal years (the minimum clearing price for auctions held during calendar 2022 is $2.44). This increase reflects the increased auction prices of allowances in recent auctions but still results in a conservative estimate of total auction revenues, as actual auction prices have exceeded $6.50 in each auction since Auction 49 in September 2020.

This method of forecasting revenue helps ensure that there is some fund balance available in future years to support spending, but it can also delay the impact of higher revenue receipts on program spending (as has occurred over the past year), since it is not used until the subsequent budget cycle. This process has kept the fund balance over $20 million in recent years, increasing to over $44 million at the end of fiscal 2021. The fiscal 2023 allowance increases the funding budgeted for energy assistance from the SEIF by $51 million to a total of $82.8 million. This amount is based on the fiscal 2021 overattainment of revenues above the budgeted floor price and the higher auction clearing price used in budget development, in addition to the usage of available fund balance.

As shown in **Exhibit 9**, the fiscal 2021 year-end balance for the energy assistance subaccount within the SEIF was $44.6 million. As a result of increasing RGGI auction revenues, the estimated fiscal 2022 end-of-year subaccount balance will increase to $66.9 million. Revenue plus fund balance is sufficient to support the fiscal 2022 allowance while leaving a sizable fund balance to support the increased use of funds in the 2023 allowance. MEA estimates a fund balance of $17.7 million at the end of fiscal 2023, but the end-of-year fund balances in fiscal 2022 and 2023 are most likely understated if RGGI auction allowance prices remain near the current level or remain elevated above prices in previous years. Additional discussion on the accounting of the SEIF fund revenue and estimates will be included in the MEA budget analysis.

Exhibit 9

Strategic Energy Investment Fund Energy Assistance Closing Balance

Fiscal 2021-2023 Est.

2021 Closing Balance	**$44,665,603**
2022 Est. Revenue	$49,697,449
Realign Interest	4,508,069
2022 Working Appropriation	-31,947,519
2022 Est. Balance	**$66,923,603**
2023 Est. Revenue	$33,643,635
2023 Allowance	-82,817,693
2023 Est. Balance	**$17,749,543**

Est.: estimated

Source: Governor’s Fiscal 2023 Budget Books; Maryland Energy Administration

Personnel Data

	FY 21 Actual	FY 22 Working	FY 23 Allowance	FY 22-23 Change
Regular Positions	14.87	13.50	14.00	0.50
Contractual FTEs	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Personnel	**15.37**	**13.50**	**14.00**	**0.50**

Vacancy Data: Regular Positions

Turnover and Necessary Vacancies, Excluding New Positions	1.06	7.60%
Positions and Percentage Vacant as of 12/31/21	2.00	14.81%
Vacancies Above Turnover	0.94	

- The fiscal 2023 allowance includes an increase of a 0.5 regular position due to the conversion of an existing part-time position to a full-time position.

Issues

1. Missing Information Remains Leading Cause of Application Denials

In an effort to continue to monitor application denial rates, committee narrative in the 2020 and 2021 *Joint Chairmen's Report* (JCR) requested the department to submit a report on application denial rates by benefit type and the most common reasons for application denials by benefit type. As shown in **Exhibit 10**, as in previous fiscal years, incomplete information was the most common reason for denial, followed by a household having income over the eligibility threshold. Incomplete information includes but is not limited to photo identification, Social Security number documentation, or proof of residence, among other required documents. A denial for incomplete income proof indicates that all required information was submitted except for documentation providing proof of income. Chapters 638 and 639 made changes allowing for a period of three months after denial due to missing information for an applicant to provide additional documentation to cure the denied application. **DHS should comment on any impacts on overall denial rates and denials for incomplete information that have occurred as a result of these changes.**

Exhibit 10
Energy Assistance Denial Rates by Benefit Type and Reason
Fiscal 2022 YTD

Program	Denial Rate	Most Common Reason for Denial	Second-most Common Reason for Denial	Third-most Common Reason for Denial
MEAP	23%	Incomplete Information	Over Income	Incomplete Income Proof
EUSP Bill Payment	22%	Incomplete Information	Over Income	Incomplete Income Proof
EUSP Arrearage	53%	Incomplete Information	Over Income	Other
Gas Arrearage	66%	Incomplete Information	Over Income	Other

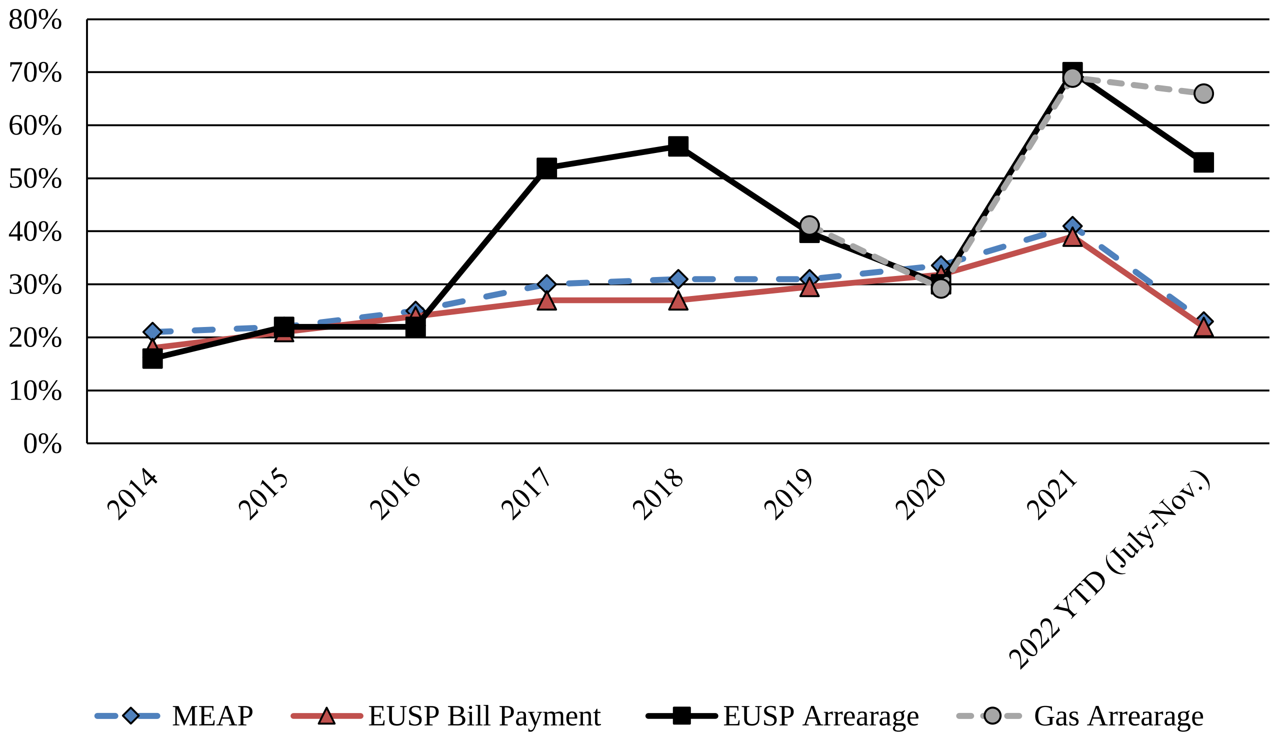
EUSP: Electric Universal Service Program
MEAP: Maryland Energy Assistance Program
YTD: year to date

Source: Department of Human Services

Denial Rates Rise for All Benefit Programs

As shown in **Exhibit 11**, denial rates for all four benefit types increased during fiscal 2021. Denial rates for the two arrearage assistance programs saw significant increases following two consecutive years of decrease, reaching levels higher than in any recent fiscal year. Denial rates for these two programs more than doubled between fiscal 2020 and 2021, reaching 70% for EUSP arrearage assistance and 69% for gas arrearage assistance. Although denial rates for all four benefit types have decreased in fiscal 2022 through November, denial rates for the two arrearage assistance program remain significantly elevated from fiscal 2019 and 2020 levels, at 53% for EUSP arrearage assistance and 63% for gas arrearage assistance. For the two bill payment assistance programs, denial rates increased by 22% for MEAP and 23% for the EUSP bill payment program between fiscal 2020 and 2021. However, unlike the arrearage assistance programs, denial rates for both bill payment assistance programs have decreased by 44% in fiscal 2022 through November, to 23% for MEAP and 22% for the EUSP bill payment program. The denial rates for these two programs are the lowest for each since fiscal 2015.

Exhibit 11
Application Denial Rate by Benefit Type
Fiscal 2014-2022 YTD



EUSP: Electric Universal Service Program
MEAP: Maryland Energy Assistance Program
YTD: year to date

Source: Department of Human Services

Caution should be taken when interpreting data for fiscal 2022, as data only represents the reporting period through October 31, and denial rates for the full fiscal year may vary. Additionally, Chapters 638 and 639 altered the application process, effective May 30, 2021, by allowing applicants three months following denial for missing documentation to remedy their application. As a result, final fiscal 2022 data may be lower than reported mid-year. However, increased denial rates in fiscal 2022 are occurring at the same time as applications have been generally decreasing over fiscal 2021 levels. **DHS should comment on any factors impacting the mid-year increases in denial rates, particularly for arrearage assistance benefits.**

2. Application Processing Times

Since 2016, committee narrative in the JCR has requested that DHS provide information on application processing times by LAAs to the budget committees. Processing times are reported through two measures: (1) average days to process (certify or deny applications); and (2) percent of application processed within certain time frames. While there are no formal processing time standards, the termination protection time period (55 days) has been used as the measure for timely processing.

Average Application Processing Time by Jurisdiction

As shown in **Exhibit 12**, through November 1 in fiscal 2022, the statewide average number of days to process an application is 22 days, the same number of days as in the same reporting period in the previous fiscal year, and an 8 day decrease from the full fiscal 2021 average. Increases in the average number of days to process applications have occurred in 9 LAAs since the end of fiscal 2021, while 11 saw decreases or the same average number. The largest increases occurred in the LAAs for Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary’s counties (Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action Committee, Inc.) and Allegany County (Allegany County Department of Social Services). The average in Allegany County is impacted by the transition of administration over application processing from the county’s Human Resources Development Commission to the Department of Social Services on July 1, 2021. Five LAAs had average processing times of over 30 days, while 10 had average processing times of fewer than 20 days.

Exhibit 12
Comparison of Average Days to Process Energy Assistance Applications
Fiscal 2021-2022

	(Through Nov 1) 2021	**(End of Year) 2021**	**(Through Nov 1) 2022**	**2021 (End of Year) to 2022 Change**
Allegany County Human Resources Development Commission/DSS*	21	24/30	49	25/19
Anne Arundel County CAC	24	29	26	-3
Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success	28	39	31	-8
Baltimore County DSS	15	13	10	-3
Caroline County DSS	16	15	16	1
Human Service Programs of Carroll County Inc.	22	19	18	-1
Cecil County DSS	26	26	29	3
Dorchester County DSS	21	23	20	-3
Frederick County DSS	21	20	19	-1
Garrett County CAC	7	6	10	4
Harford County CAC	12	12	14	2
Howard County CAC	33	40	46	6
Kent County DSS	13	14	14	0
Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services	37	35	35	0
Prince George's County DSS	34	70	12	-58
Queen Anne's County DSS	16	20	20	0
Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action Committee Inc. (Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties)	17	21	46	25
Neighborhood Service Center (Talbot County)	6	6	11	5
Washington County CAC	10	12	25	13
Shore UP! (Somerset, Worcester, and Wicomico Counties)	22	21	15	-6
Total	**22**	**30**	**22**	**-8**

CAC: Community Action Council
DSS: Department of Social Services

Note: As of July 1, 2021, the Allegany County Department of Social Services processes energy assistance applications. Prince George's County undertook an effort to reduce denial rates in fiscal 2021 that had the effect of increasing application processing times. In fiscal 2022, Prince George's County returned to requesting additional information through typical methods.

Source: Department of Human Services

Applications Processed Beyond the 55-day Guideline

As shown in **Exhibit 13**, through November 1 in fiscal 2022, statewide, 7% of applications were processed in longer than 55 days, an increase of 5 percentage points from fiscal 2021 over the same time period but a 7 percentage point decrease since the end of fiscal 2021. The number of LAAs that had at least 1% of applications processed in longer than 55 days decreased from 17 at the end of fiscal 2021 to 12 in fiscal 2022 through November. The LAA in Howard County, which had not had applications processed beyond the 55-day deadline in the previous two mid-year reporting periods, had 42% of applications processed in longer than 55 days, the highest percentage statewide. The LAA serving Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties and the LAA in Allegany County both also had over 40% of applications processed beyond the 55 day deadline.

Exhibit 13
Comparison of Applications Processed Beyond the 55-day Guideline
Fiscal 2021-2022

	(Through Nov 1) 2021	(End of Year) 2021	(Through Nov 1) 2022	Percentage Point Change 2021-2022
Allegany County Human Resources Development Commission/DSS*	0%	2%/12 %	41%	39/29
Anne Arundel County CAC	1%	7%	4%	-3
Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success	2%	21%	15%	-6
Baltimore County DSS	0%	1%	0%	-1
Caroline County DSS	1%	1%	1%	0
Human Service Programs of Carroll County Inc.	0%	1%	0%	-1
Cecil County DSS	0%	1%	0%	-1
Dorchester County DSS	0%	4%	0%	-4
Frederick County DSS	0%	1%	1%	0
Garrett County CAC	0%	2%	2%	0
Harford County CAC	0%	0%	0%	0
Howard County CAC	0%	18%	42%	24
Kent County DSS	0%	2%	1%	-1
Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services	4%	12%	9%	-3
Prince George's County DSS	15%	56%	0%	-56
Queen Anne's County DSS	0%	2%	0%	-2
Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action Committee Inc. (Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties)	0%	3%	40%	37
Neighborhood Service Center (Talbot County)	0%	0%	1%	1
Washington County CAC	0%	0%	3%	3
Shore UP! (Somerset, Worcester, and Wicomico Counties)	0%	5%	0%	-5
Total	**2%**	**14%**	**7%**	**-7**

CAC: Community Action Council
DSS: Department of Social Services

*: As of July 1, 2021, the Allegany County Department of Social Services processes energy assistance applications.

Source: Department of Human Services

DHS should comment on the increases in application processing times and percentage of applications processed beyond 55 days that have occurred for the Howard County Community Action Council and the Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action Committee.

3. Implementation of Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

In June 2021, HHS announced the release of emergency funding to grantees to establish LIHWAP. Funding was included under the federal CRRSA and the ARPA. Under program guidelines, grantees may use funds to provide bill payment assistance to low-income households for drinking water and wastewater services, as well as arrearage assistance. Maryland’s allocation of LIHWAP funding totals $14.1 million and will remain available for use through federal fiscal year 2023. DHS notes that there has been increased need for water and wastewater bill payment assistance in Maryland, particularly since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Several major water utilities reported an increase of over 75% in water bill arrearages since the start of the pandemic, with the need concentrated in Prince George’s County and Baltimore City.

DHS has submitted a LIHWAP grant implementation plan to initiate the process of establishing the program, which is still in its development phase. DHS indicates that LIHWAP will be administered through LDSS and that joint applications will be established with LIHWAP and other low-income benefit programs. Under the terms of the program, each state has its own authority to determine income eligibility. DHS plans to designate the income eligibility threshold at 60% of Maryland’s median income, which is a different income eligibility criterion than is used for other energy assistance benefits. Households with high water cost burdens will be given priority in eligibility and will receive higher benefit levels. Additionally, as outlined in the plan, current recipients of the following programs will be categorically eligible for LIHWAP assistance:

- LIHEAP;
- means-tested veterans programs;
- Supplemental Security Income;
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); and
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

Water assistance benefits will be available one-time only and limited to between $100 and $2,000 based on the total amount of arrearages on a household’s water and/or wastewater account, defined as the amount past due greater than 30 days. Similar to other energy assistance applications, households that are denied assistance may reapply after 30 days if there is a change in circumstances. If an application is submitted without required documentation, the applicant will have 15 days to produce the documentation. **DHS should comment on the status of implementing LIHWAP, including an update on when it anticipates that applications for benefits will open and when the first benefits will be paid out. The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) recommends committee narrative be adopted requesting an update on the establishment of LIHWAP in Maryland, including the use of federal stimulus funding and any other funding needs for the program.**

Operating Budget Recommended Actions

1. Adopt the following narrative:

Energy Assistance Applications Processing Times and Denial Rates: The committees are interested in continuing to monitor the local administering agencies (LAA) energy assistance application processing times and overall program denial rates. The committees request that the Department of Human Services (DHS) provide by LAAs:

- the number of applications received;
- the average number of days to process applications; and
- the number and percentage of applications processed within 30 days, 55 days, and longer than 60 days.

In addition, the committees request that DHS provide application denial rates separately by benefit type as well as the share of application denials by reason separately by benefit type. Data should also include the number of applications initially denied due to incomplete information that were subsequently cured due to applicants providing missing information within the additional three months, as allowed for under Chapters 638 and 639 of 2021. Fiscal 2021 and 2022 end-of-year actual data for denial rates should be included in the report due December 31, 2022, as well as fiscal 2023 data current through November 1, 2022.

Each report should note the date of the data. The data should be current through November 1, 2022, for the report due December 31, 2022, and current through May 1, 2023, for the report due June 30, 2023.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Application processing times and denial rates	DHS	December 31, 2022
Application processing times and denial rates	DHS	June 30, 2023

2. Adopt the following narrative:

Implementation of Categorical Eligibility for Energy Assistance Programs: The Department of Human Services (DHS) Office of Home Energy Programs (OHEP) has begun to take steps necessary to implement categorical eligibility for energy assistance programs in order to reduce administrative costs, simplify the application process and reduce denial rates. The committees continue to be interested in administrative changes to energy assistance programs, and request that DHS submit a report providing an update on the status of the implementation of categorical eligibility for energy assistance. In addition, the report should include updates on the following:

- the status of the integration of the OHEP Data Management System with DHS's new Enrollment and Eligibility (E&E) system;

- the status of establishment of a centralized administrative model through local departments of social services (LDSS) for energy assistance programs;

- the anticipated role that non-LDSS local administering agencies will continue to have in providing outreach and other assistance following the transition of program administration to the LDSS model; and

- the budgetary impacts of the implementation of categorical eligibility, including actual or estimated cost savings for administration resulting from a centralized administrative model.

Information Request	**Author**	**Due Date**
Report on the status of implementation of categorical eligibility and other administrative changes	DHS	December 31, 2022

3. Adopt the following narrative:

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program: The committees are interested in understanding the new Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) funded through federal stimulus funds. The committees request that the Department of Human Services (DHS) Office of Home Energy Programs submit a report on LIHWAP, with a specific discussion of (1) the steps taken by DHS to implement the program in Maryland; (2) the date(s) when the program began or is estimated to begin accepting applications and when the first benefits were or will be paid to recipients; (3) the use of federal stimulus funds for the program, including if additional need for funding is projected once these funds are expended or the anticipated end date of the program if it is not expected to continue beyond the availability of these funds; and (4) the number of applications and households receiving benefits under the program, including the average benefit size.

Information Request	**Author**	**Due Date**
Report on LIHWAP water assistance program	DHS	November 1, 2022

Updates

1. Implementation of Categorical Eligibility

Committee narrative in the 2021 JCR required DHS to provide an update on the status of steps taken toward the implementation of categorical eligibility for energy assistance programs. Categorical eligibility refers to the practice of qualifying an applicant for a benefit program based on their prior or concurrent determination of eligibility for another benefit program. DHS previously indicated that it would take steps to implement categorical eligibility in an effort to simplify the application process for energy assistance, reduce application denial rates, and reduce administrative costs. Currently, an applicant's eligibility for other benefit programs administered by DHS is not considered as part of the assessment for eligibility for energy assistance.

DHS indicated that the first step for implementation would be an assessment of the need for legislation to amend the State's EUSP statute in order to reflect the option for qualifying applicants through this mechanism, as well as an update to its LIHEAP state model plan in order to receive approval from HHS. DHS submitted details on this planned change to PSC with its fiscal 2022 proposed operations plan and to HHS with the submission of its LIHEAP State Plan. To date, no legislation has been introduced reflecting a change in eligibility related to the planned change.

DHS reports that it is currently taking steps to integrate the OHEP Data Management System, which is currently used to administer OHEP programs, into its new E&E System (part of the Maryland Total Human-Services Information Network system), which is used for SNAP, Temporary Cash Assistance, and other cash assistance programs, in order to enable categorical eligibility determinations. It is estimated that this integration will be complete by the first quarter of fiscal 2023.

Additionally, DHS plans to eventually centralize eligibility determinations for energy assistance through its LDSS in order to align the administration of OHEP programs with other DHS benefit programs, with a goal of establishing a unified LDSS administrative model by July 1, 2023. DHS notes the inefficiencies of requiring applicants to submit applications to two separate agencies if they wish to apply for both energy assistance and other benefit programs. Existing community partner organizations currently under contract with DHS will continue to be involved in conducting outreach and assisting applicants in the application process.

Appendix 1
2021 *Joint Chairmen's Report* Responses from Agency

The 2021 JCR requested that DHS OHEP prepare two reports. Electronic copies of the full JCR responses can be found on the DLS Library website.

- ***Energy Assistance Application Processing Times and Denial Rates:*** Two reports were required, due on December 30, 2021, and June 30, 2022. The report submitted in December contained data on the average number of days to process applications and the number and percentage of applications processed within certain timeframes, by jurisdiction. The report also included an update on application denial rates and reasons for denials. Further discussion of this data can be found in the Issues section of this analysis.

- ***Status of Implementation of Categorical Eligibility and other Administrative Changes:*** A report was submitted providing an update on the status of steps taken by DHS for the implementation of categorical eligibility for energy assistance, including integration of the OHEP Data Management System into the new E&E System and the establishment of a centralized administrative model. Further discussion of this report can be found in the Updates section of this analysis.

Appendix 2
Object/Fund Difference Report
Department of Human Services – Office of Home Energy Programs

Object/Fund	FY 21 Actual	FY 22 Working Appropriation	FY 23 Allowance	FY 22 - FY 23 Amount Change	Percent Change
Positions					
01 Regular	14.87	13.50	14.00	0.50	3.7%
02 Contractual	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Total Positions	**15.37**	**13.50**	**14.00**	**0.50**	**3.7%**
Objects					
01 Salaries and Wages	$ 2,343,150	$ 1,063,467	$ 1,055,836	-$ 7,631	-0.7%
02 Technical and Special Fees	242,712	21	21	0	0%
03 Communication	38,059	20,858	31,962	11,104	53.2%
04 Travel	3,957	982	982	0	0%
06 Fuel and Utilities	9,773	0	0	0	0.0%
08 Contractual Services	150,595,498	143,163,205	194,033,379	50,870,174	35.5%
09 Supplies and Materials	95,850	124,240	124,240	0	0%
10 Equipment – Replacement	2,110	0	0	0	0.0%
11 Equipment – Additional	203	0	0	0	0.0%
12 Grants, Subsidies, and Contributions	247,883	10,000,000	649,885	-9,350,115	-93.5%
13 Fixed Charges	73,119	7,247	7,247	0	0%
Total Objects	**$ 153,652,314**	**$ 154,380,020**	**$ 195,903,552**	**$ 41,523,532**	**26.9%**
Funds					
01 General Fund	$ 0	$ 0	$ 80,000	$ 80,000	N/A
03 Special Fund	47,019,265	67,999,474	118,862,430	50,862,956	74.8%
05 Federal Fund	106,633,049	86,380,546	76,961,122	-9,419,424	-10.9%
Total Funds	**$ 153,652,314**	**$ 154,380,020**	**$ 195,903,552**	**$ 41,523,532**	**26.9%**

Note: The fiscal 2022 working appropriation does not include deficiency appropriations. The fiscal 2022 working appropriation and fiscal 2023 allowance do not reflect funding for statewide personnel actions budgeted in the Department of Budget and Management, which include cost-of-living adjustments, increments, bonuses, and may include annual salary review adjustments.

Appendix 3
Fiscal Summary
Department of Human Services – Office of Home Energy Programs

Program/Unit	FY 21 Actual	FY 22 Work Approp	FY 23 Allowance	Change	FY 22 - FY 23 % Change
9F01 OHEP Administration	$ 15,446,284	$ 12,315,080	$ 12,396,984	$ 81,904	0.7%
9F02 MEAP - Universal Services Benefit Program	68,528,229	68,963,706	68,963,706	0	0%
9F03 EUSP - Universal Services Benefit Program	20,593,179	30,753,715	30,755,284	1,569	0%
9F04 State Special Benefit Fund (OHEP)	397,776	400,000	400,000	0	0%
9F05 Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund	19,850,329	31,947,519	82,817,693	50,870,174	159.2%
9F06 MEAP - Supplemental	19,406,402	0	0	0	0%
9F07 Arrearages and Bill Assistance	9,430,115	10,000,000	569,885	-9,430,115	-94.3%
Total Expenditures	**$ 153,652,314**	**$ 154,380,020**	**$ 195,903,552**	**$ 41,523,532**	**26.9%**
General Fund	$ 0	$ 0	$ 80,000	$ 80,000	N/A
Special Fund	47,019,265	67,999,474	118,862,430	50,862,956	74.8%
Federal Fund	106,633,049	86,380,546	76,961,122	-9,419,424	-10.9%
Total Appropriations	**$ 153,652,314**	**$ 154,380,020**	**$ 195,903,552**	**$ 41,523,532**	**26.9%**

Note: The fiscal 2022 working appropriation does not include deficiency appropriations. The fiscal 2022 working appropriation and fiscal 2023 allowance do not reflect funding for statewide personnel actions budgeted in the Department of Budget and Management, which include cost-of-living adjustments, increments, bonuses, and may include annual salary review adjustments.