

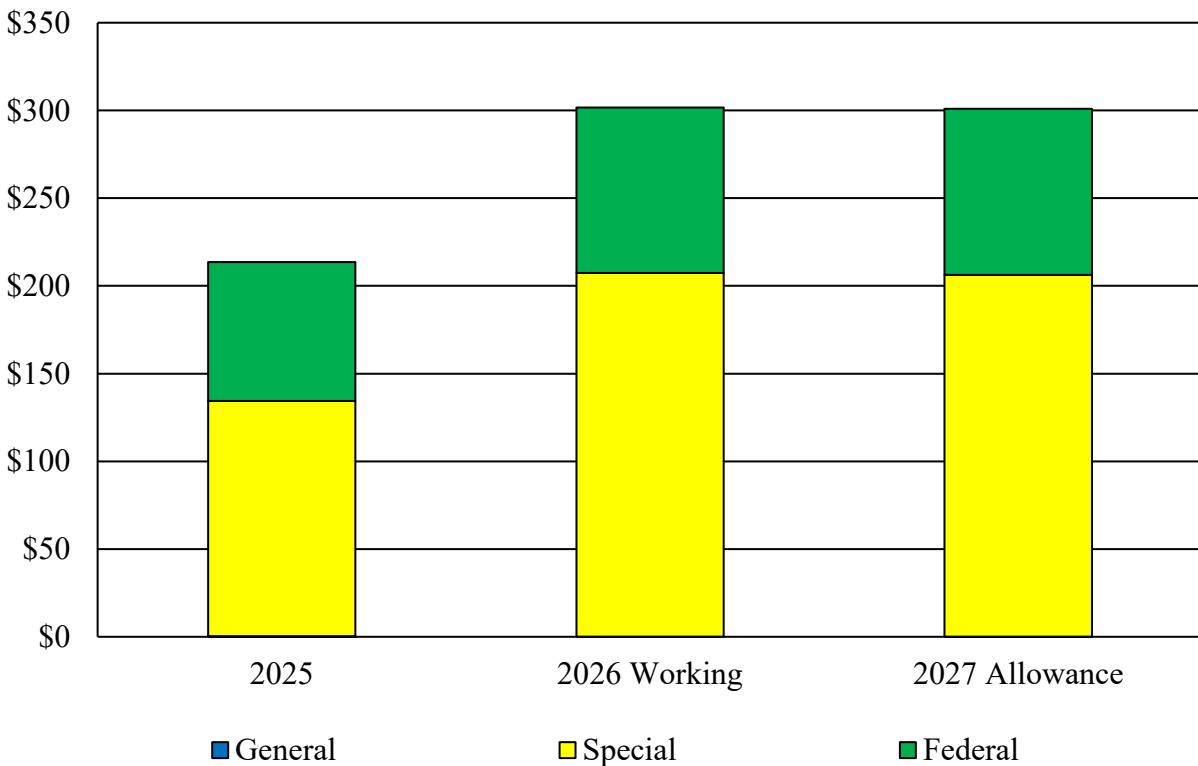
N00I0006
Office of Home Energy Programs
Department of Human Services

Executive Summary

The Office of Home Energy Programs (OHEP) within the Department of Human Services (DHS) Family Investment Administration (FIA) administers energy assistance benefit programs that provide 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 2027 Budget Decreases \$743,606, or 0.3%, to \$300.9 Million
(\$ in Millions)



Note: Numbers may not sum due to rounding. The fiscal 2026 working appropriation accounts for deficiencies. The fiscal 2027 statewide salary adjustments are centrally budgeted in the Department of Budget and Management and are not included in this agency's budget.

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Key Observations

- ***Electric Universal Service Program:*** The annual amount of Electric Universal Service Program (EUSP) ratepayer surcharge revenue collections is set in statute at \$37.0 million to provide bill assistance, low-income residential weatherization, and retirement of arrearages. Including funding for energy assistance benefits and program administration, \$50.2 million in EUSP ratepayer surcharge revenues are budgeted in the fiscal 2027 allowance, approximately \$13.2 million more than the annual maximum collection amount. In fiscal 2026, including the deficiency appropriations of \$9.8 million, appropriations from EUSP ratepayer surcharge revenues total \$58.7 million.
- ***Applications for Energy Assistance Decrease:*** Applications for energy assistance decreased by 31.2% in fiscal 2025 compared to fiscal 2024. In fiscal 2026, through December 2025, applications for energy assistance increased by 23.6% compared to applications during the same period in fiscal 2025. Although the number of applications received in fiscal 2025 declined, the total number of households receiving benefits increased by 24.3%. Through December 2025, in fiscal 2026, the total number of households receiving energy assistance benefits was 13.0% higher compared to the same time period one year ago.
- ***Denial Rates:*** Denial rates for all four of the energy assistance programs administered by OHEP have decreased during fiscal 2026 (through November 1, 2025). Denial rates remain highest for the gas arrearage assistance program (59.4%) and the EUSP arrearage assistance program (58.7%).

Operating Budget Recommended Actions

	<u>Amount</u>
1. Reduce general funds for personnel expenses. The Office of Home Energy Programs administrative costs are supported with special and federal funds.	-\$46,229
2. Add language restricting funds until a report is submitted on energy assistance application processing times and denial rates.	
3. Adopt committee narrative requesting data on energy assistance participation rates.	
Total Net Change to Fiscal 2027 Allowance	-\$46,229

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Operating Budget Analysis

Program Description

OHEP is a program within DHS FIA. The services provided by OHEP include benefits to help defray energy costs; budget counseling; and referrals, including for weatherization services provided through the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) that include heating/cooling equipment repair and replacement. OHEP administers two main energy assistance programs for residential customers: (1) the Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) provides bill payment assistance for home heating bills, natural gas arrearage assistance, and crisis assistance for a variety of heating sources and for electric customers; and (2) EUSP provides bill payment assistance and arrearage assistance for electric customers. MEAP is federally funded by Maryland’s federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). EUSP is funded by a combination of sources: (1) a ratepayer surcharge on electric bills; (2) an allocation of revenue from Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) auctions (budgeted through the Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF)); and (3) LIHEAP, if available or when needed. Arrearage assistance benefits are typically funded through the SEIF and funds available from a Public Service Commission (PSC) order related to an electric generating facility at Dominion Cove Point (DCP), while all sources are used for bill payment. PSC required DCP to contribute \$8.0 million over 20 years to MEAP. The yearly contribution of \$400,000 started in fiscal 2019 and will end in fiscal 2039.

These programs are administered using local administering agencies (LAA), which are a combination of local departments of social services (LDSS), community action agencies, or other local government offices in each jurisdiction. Two LAAs service 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.

Performance Analysis: Managing for Results

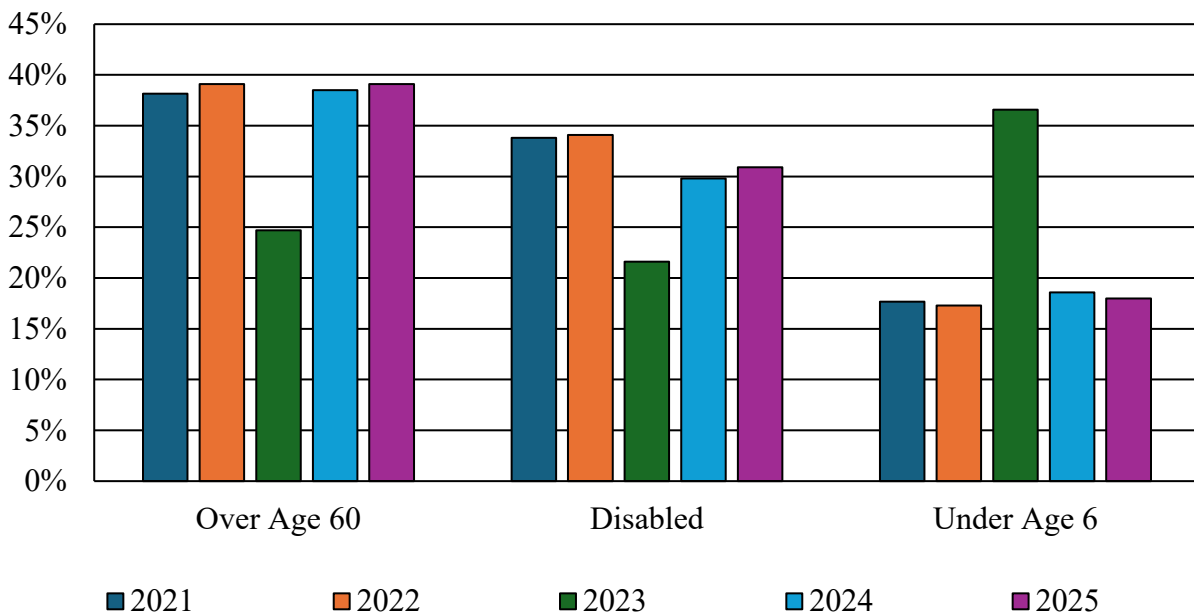
1. Energy Assistance Participation Rates for Vulnerable Populations

As part of its annual Managing for Results (MFR) submission, OHEP calculates the percentage of eligible households receiving energy assistance benefits that include individuals from three vulnerable populations (households with an individual over age 60, households with an individual with a disability, and households with children under age 6). The calculation compares actual OHEP participation data to an estimate of the number of households estimated to be eligible for benefits based on U.S. census data. DHS did not provide actual data for these measures in its submission during the 2025 session. As a result, committee narrative in the 2025 *Joint Chairmen’s*

Report (JCR) requested DHS to submit data on energy assistance participation rates for vulnerable populations for federal fiscal 2024 and 2025. DHS submitted a report providing fiscal 2024 and 2025 data that was submitted with the submission of the fiscal 2027 budget.

As shown in **Exhibit 1**, the share of eligible households receiving benefits in fiscal 2025 that included an individual over age 60 was 39.1%, the share of households with an individual who was disabled was 30.9%, and the share of households with a child under age 6 was 18.0%. The percentage of households with a member over age 60 receiving energy assistance increased by 13.8 percentage points in fiscal 2024 and further increased by 0.6 percentage points in fiscal 2025. The percentage of households with an individual with a disability receiving benefits increased in fiscal 2024 by 8.2 percentage points and by 1.1 percentage points in fiscal 2025. However, the percentage of households with a child under age 6 decreased by 18 percentage points in fiscal 2024 and further decreased by 0.6 percentage points in fiscal 2025. Although the percentage of vulnerable populations receiving energy assistance benefits in fiscal 2024 and 2025 varied compared to fiscal 2023, these levels are closer to fiscal 2021 and 2022 levels. **DHS should comment on the reasons for the decrease in participation among households with a child under age 6 and efforts to increase participation.**

Exhibit 1
Vulnerable Populations Receiving Energy Assistance Benefits
Fiscal 2021-2025



Source: Department of Human Services

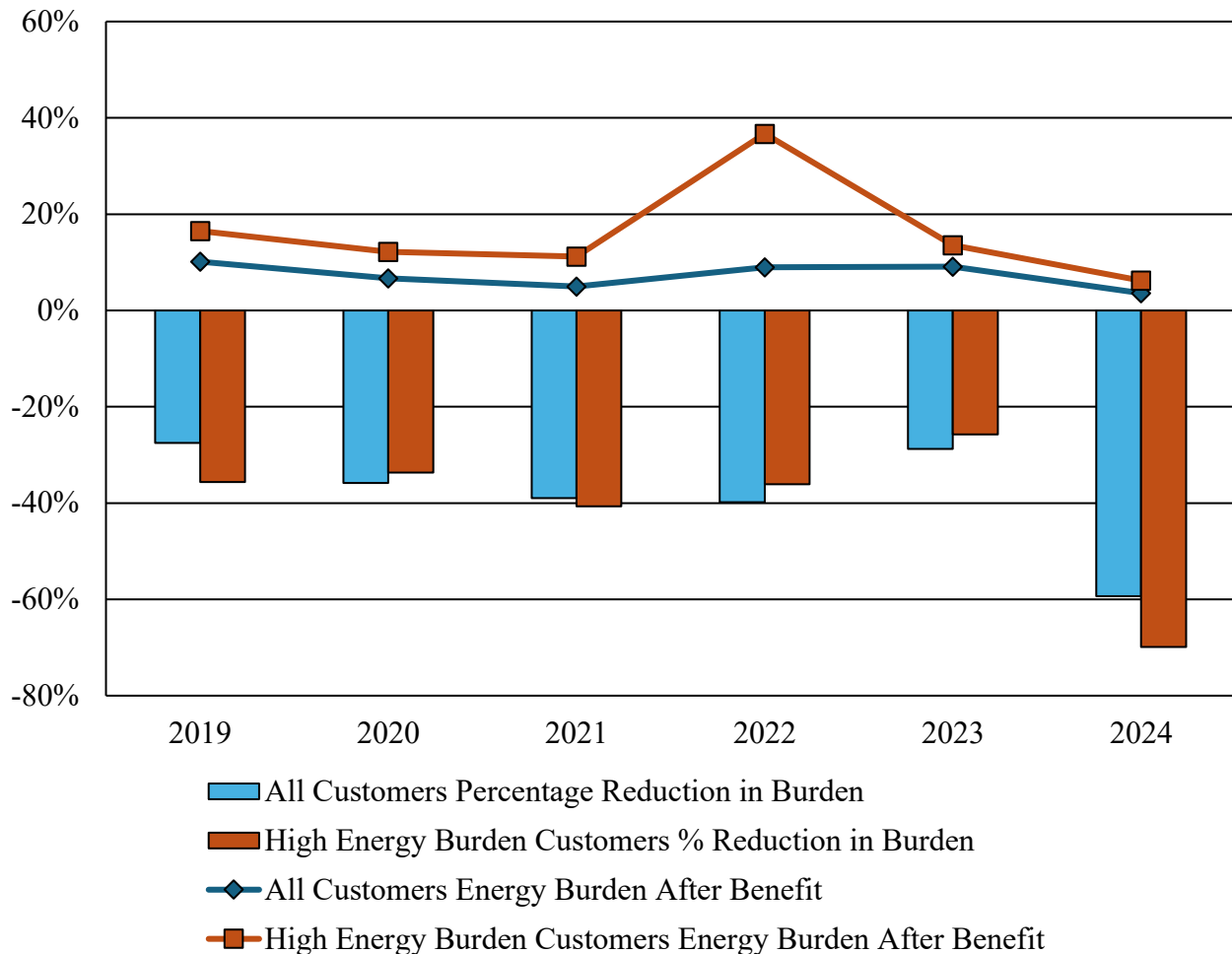
Previously, DHS had also included in its annual MFR submission a measure of the participation rate in the benefit programs overall comparing the numbers participated to the estimated eligible. The fiscal 2027 submission did not include general participation rate measures for energy assistance benefits. These measures help provide an understanding of overall program reach that are not captured solely by a focus on vulnerable households. **The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) recommends adopting committee narrative requesting data on vulnerable populations and general participation rate measures for energy assistance benefits.**

2. Benefit Targeting and Energy Burden Reduction

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services requires states to report certain LIHEAP performance measures that focus on how well states are targeting energy assistance benefits to those 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).

In federal fiscal 2024, prior to receiving LIHEAP benefits, the average annual energy burden was 9.2% for all households and 20.7% for high energy burden households. As shown in **Exhibit 2**, in federal fiscal 2024, the average annual energy burden after receiving LIHEAP benefits was 3.8% for all households and 6.2% for high energy burden households. In comparison, in federal fiscal 2023, the average annual energy burden after receiving LIHEAP was 9.1% for all households and 13.6% for high energy burden households. OHEP benefits funded through LIHEAP reduced the energy burden for all households receiving a benefit by 59.3% and for high energy burden households by 69.9%. In comparison, in federal fiscal 2023, the energy burden reduction was 28.8% for all households and 25.8% for high energy burden households.

**Exhibit 2
Energy Burden Reduction for All Fuel Sources
Federal Fiscal 2019-2024**

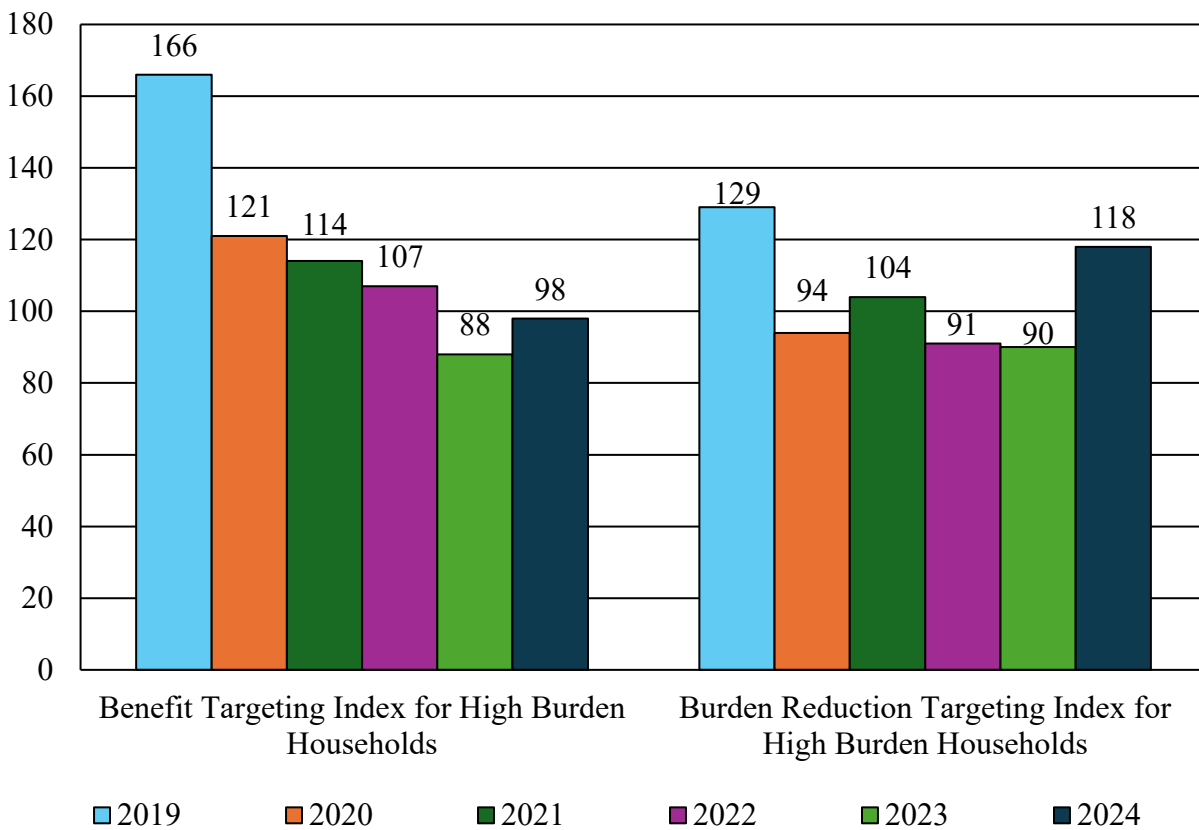


Source: Department of Human Services

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 greater than 100 indicates that higher benefits are paid to those with higher energy 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 usage, cost of energy, income level (through a percentage of the bill paid as determined by income relative to the 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 3**, the benefit targeting index has decreased each year since fiscal 2020. The benefit targeting index decreased to 98 in federal fiscal 2024, a 10-point increase from the previous year but a 9-point decrease compared to federal fiscal 2022. A benefit targeting index of 98 indicates that households with the highest energy burdens saw a 2% lower benefit compared to all households.

Exhibit 3
Benefit Targeting Index
Federal Fiscal 2019-2024



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 of over 100 indicates that high energy burden households had a greater reduction. In federal fiscal 2024, Maryland’s burden reduction index was 118, indicating that high energy burden households had a 18% higher reduction of energy burdens compared to all households.

Federal Shutdown Impacts

Due to the federal government shutdown, the LIHEAP allocation for federal fiscal 2026 was delayed. As a result, under the state of emergency that was declared in Maryland on October 30, 2025, Governor Wes Moore authorized the use of the SEIF to support MEAP for November. A budget amendment appropriated \$10.1 million from the SEIF to cover the projected need for MEAP in November 2025.

Fiscal 2026

Proposed Deficiency

The fiscal 2027 Budget Bill contains five proposed fiscal 2026 deficiency appropriations totaling a net of \$3.9 million – \$2.4 million from special funds and \$1.5 million from federal funds. The proposed deficiency appropriations include:

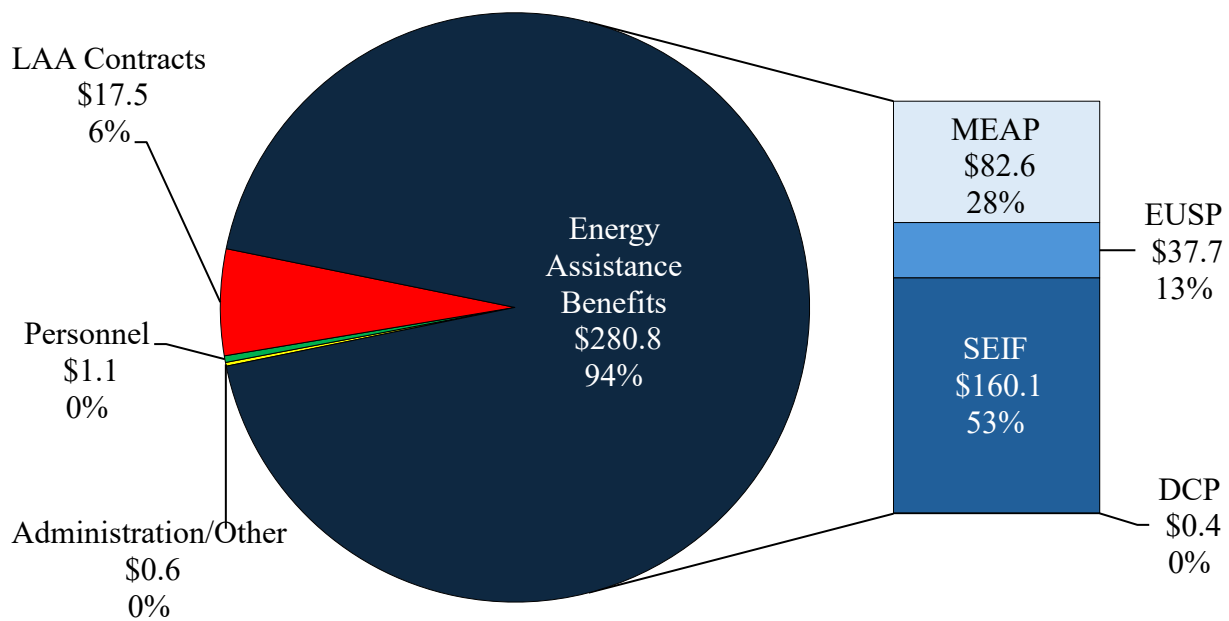
- realignment of \$22.5 million from the LIHEAP grant for MEAP benefits that was labeled as call center in error in the fiscal 2026 budget;
- \$2.1 million for LAAs to fund contracts to process energy assistance applications;
- \$1.5 million from the LIHEAP grant for MEAP benefits;
- \$1.0 million for LAAs associated with fund realignments but which provides a net increase; and
- a reduction of \$696,594 associated with electric benefits and outreach expenditures.

Fiscal 2027 Overview of Agency Spending

The fiscal 2027 allowance for OHEP totals \$300.9 million. As shown in **Exhibit 4**, \$280.8 million, or 94%, of the OHEP budget supports energy assistance benefits. Funding for EUSP program benefits, including both electric bill payment and arrearage assistance, totals \$197.8 million, or 66%, of the budget. The funding level for the EUSP program varies primarily with the availability of SEIF revenues allocated by statute for energy assistance. The other two funding sources (the EUSP ratepayer surcharge and DCP settlement) are relatively set amounts, with fluctuations in the ratepayer surcharge portion generally limited to adjustments in the allocations between administrative expenses and benefits. However, the availability of funds for EUSP is likely overstated in fiscal 2027, since the \$37.7 million set aside for benefits exceeds the statutory amount allowed to be collected from this surcharge of \$37.0 million. Additional

discussion of the EUSP ratepayer surcharge is found within the Proposed Budget Change section. Funding for MEAP energy assistance benefits, including \$2.5 million allocated to support furnace repair/replacement by DHCD, accounts for \$82.6 million, or 28%, of the budget.

**Exhibit 4
Overview of Agency Spending
Fiscal 2027 Allowance
(\$ in Millions)**



DCP: Dominion Cove Point
EUSP: Electric Universal Service Program
LAA: local administering agency

MEAP: Maryland Energy Assistance Program
SEIF: Strategic Energy Investment Fund

Note: The fiscal 2027 statewide salary adjustments are centrally budgeted in the Department of Budget and Management and are not included in this agency’s budget.

Source: Governor’s Fiscal 2027 Budget Books

The fiscal 2027 allowance for OHEP includes \$17.5 million for LAA contracts. The contracts provide funding for the local offices that administer energy assistance programs, which include a combination of community action agencies, LDSS, and other local government offices. The remaining portion of the OHEP budget totals \$1.7 million and includes funding for OHEP personnel and other administrative expenses.

Proposed Budget Change

As shown in **Exhibit 5**, the fiscal 2027 allowance for OHEP decreases by \$0.7 million, or 0.3%, compared to the fiscal 2026 working appropriation after accounting for proposed deficiency appropriations. This decrease is primarily associated with a decrease of \$1.0 million associated with LAAs and a decrease of \$0.4 million associated with personnel expenses. These decreases are partially offset by an increase of \$0.7 million in EUSP funds for energy assistance.

Exhibit 5
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 2025 Actual	\$420	\$134,003	\$79,179	\$213,602
Fiscal 2026 Working	0	207,466	94,178	301,643
Fiscal 2027 Allowance	46	206,147	94,707	300,900
Fiscal 2026-2027 \$ Change	\$46	-\$1,319	\$529	-\$744
Fiscal 2026-2027 % Change	n/a	-0.6%	0.6%	-0.3%
Where It Goes:				<u>Change</u>
Personnel Expenses				
Employee and retiree health insurance.....				\$28
Deferred compensation match due to a statewide change in budgeting.....				4
Turnover expectancy increases from 6.93% to 8.63%.....				-16
Salary and associated fringe benefits				-172
Transfer of a position to DoIT due to the transfer of Maryland Benefits in fiscal 2026				-223
Other Changes				
SEIF revenue allocated for energy assistance				10,080
EUSP ratepayer surcharge funds allocated for energy assistance (exceeds statutorily available revenue)				700
LAAs				-1,044
Emergency MEAP Funding due to delays in the release of federal fiscal 2026 LIHEAP funds to support MEAP				-10,100
Total				-\$744

DoIT: Department of Information Technology
 EUSP: Electric Universal Service Program
 LAA: Local Administering Agency

LIHEAP: Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
 MEAP: Maryland Energy Assistance Program
 SEIF: Strategic Energy Investment Fund

Note: Numbers may not sum due to rounding. The fiscal 2026 working appropriation accounts for deficiencies. The fiscal 2027 statewide salary adjustments are centrally budgeted in the Department of Budget and Management and are not included in this agency's budget.

LIHEAP

Total federal LIHEAP funding included in the fiscal 2027 allowance, including both funding for energy assistance and program administrative costs, totals \$94.7 million. This amount represents an increase of \$0.5 million from total federal LIHEAP funding available in the fiscal 2026 working appropriation, an increase of 0.6%. Compared to fiscal 2025, LIHEAP funding in fiscal 2027 increases by 19.6%. In fiscal 2027, \$82.6 million of LIHEAP funds are budgeted for energy assistance, which includes \$2.5 million allocated for furnace repair/replacement through DHCD. The annual amount of LIHEAP funds allocated to Maryland varies based on the overall block grant funding level and the State share of the grant.

The federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act included a \$500.0 million supplemental LIHEAP program allocation, which was to be allocated to states between federal fiscal 2022 and 2026. In November 2025, the final portion of the supplemental LIHEAP program allocation was released to the states, totaling \$100.0 million. Of the total, \$2.5 million is allocated to Maryland. Through federal fiscal 2025, Maryland has received \$7.0 million in supplemental LIHEAP funds. These allocations were primarily incorporated into the OHEP budget through deficiency appropriations in prior fiscal years and included \$1.5 million in federal fiscal 2022, \$1.9 million in both federal fiscal 2023 and 2024, and \$1.6 million in federal fiscal 2025. In federal fiscal 2026, total LIHEAP funding to all states increased by \$20.0 million. DHS reports that although it has not received notice of award, it expects supplemental funds due to the increased funding.

EUSP

Section 7-512.1 of the Public Utilities Article sets the annual amount of EUSP ratepayer surcharge revenue collections at \$37.0 million to provide bill assistance, low-income residential weatherization, and retirement of arrearages. OHEP administers the bill assistance and arrearage retirement components of EUSP. PSC determines the portion of the surcharge to be collected from nonresidential and residential customers in order to meet the designated portions for these ratepayers. Under statute, of the \$37.0 million, \$27.4 million is to be collected from nonresidential customers and \$9.6 million from residential customers. The statute further specifies that any unexpended funds remaining at the end of the fiscal year is retained for use during the first six months of the following fiscal year. Any unexpended funds remaining after the six months cannot be retained and must be returned to utility customers.

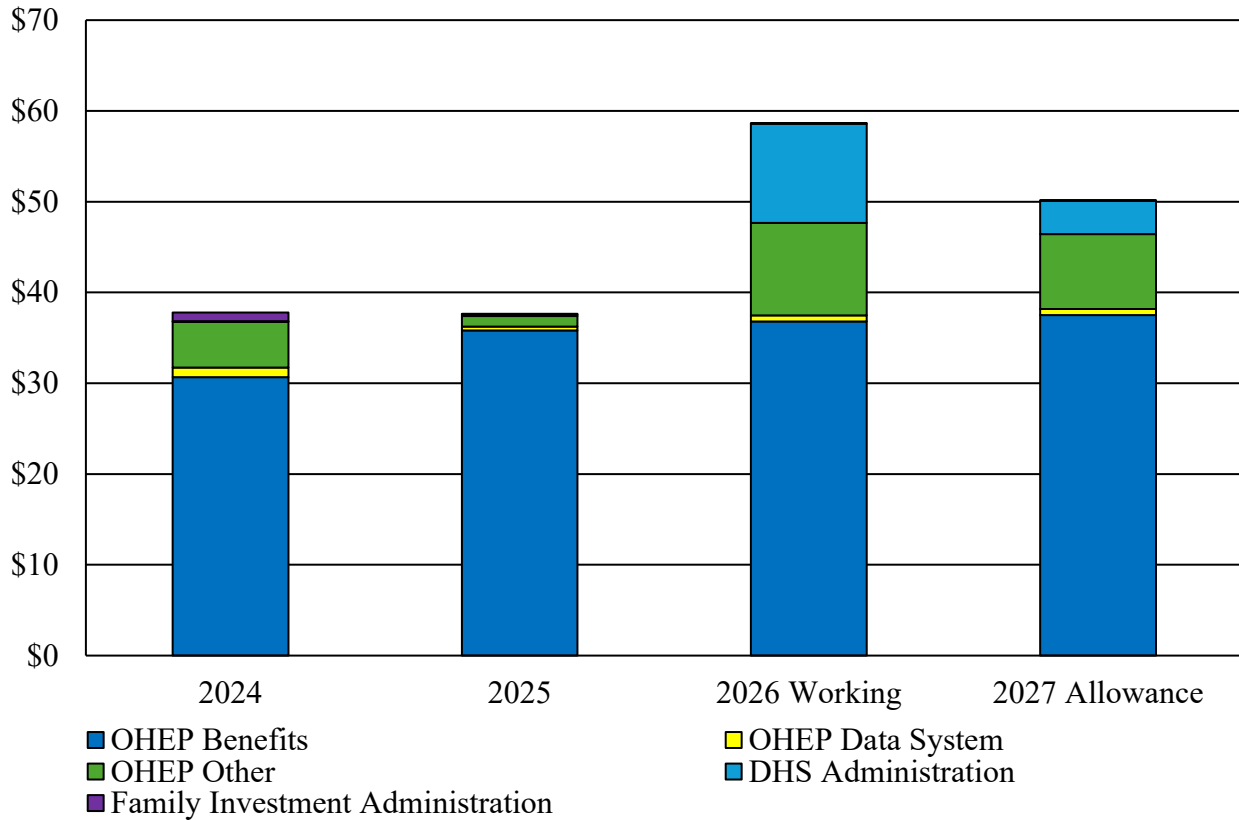
Including funding for both energy assistance benefits and program administration, \$50.2 million in EUSP ratepayer surcharge revenues is budgeted in the fiscal 2027 allowance, approximately \$13.2 million more than the annual maximum collection amount. Including the deficiency appropriations of \$9.8 million, EUSP ratepayer surcharge revenues total \$58.7 million in fiscal 2026. Although deficiency appropriations increased the amount of funds over the limit in fiscal 2027, the budgeted amount exceeded the maximum collection amount prior to the deficiency appropriation by \$11.9 million. DHS reports that the funds in excess of the maximum collection amount were an error and will ensure that EUSP funds are not overspent. DHS is working with the Department of Budget and Management to identify the appropriate special fund sources for

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\$12.7 million that was incorrectly assigned to EUSP revenues. DHS reports that the funds in excess of \$37.0 million will be provided through the SEIF and DCP. In both fiscal 2026 and 2027, EUSP ratepayer surcharge revenues budgeted in OHEP alone exceeded the authorized amount. In the analysis for N00A – DHS – Administration, DLS recommended reducing funds for Constituent Services Call Centers – \$3.4 million in EUSP funds – included in the fiscal 2027 allowance and \$7.5 million provided through a fiscal 2026 deficiency appropriation. If adopted, these recommendations would reduce the amount of EUSP revenue budgeted over the maximum amount; however, EUSP would still be over the maximum collection amount by \$9.8 million in fiscal 2027 and by \$14.2 million in fiscal 2026.

As shown in **Exhibit 6**, EUSP use for administrative purposes has increased in recent years. Particularly in fiscal 2026 and 2027, the amount of EUSP revenues set aside for DHS – Administration and OHEP expenditures not associated with assistance increased significantly. The associated expense is \$21.6 million in fiscal 2026 and \$12.4 million in fiscal 2027. **DHS should discuss its efforts to ensure correct that funds are used to cover the expenditure and how funds from DCP are available to replace the EUSP revenues, since the fiscal 2027 allowance already budgets the annual contribution of \$400,000 for energy assistance. DHS should also discuss the growth in administrative spending from these funds in recent budgets.**

Exhibit 6
EUSP Funding by Program
 Fiscal 2024-2027 Allowance
 (\$ in Millions)



DHS: Department of Human Services
 EUSP: Electric Universal Service Program

FIA: Family Investment Administration
 OHEP: Office of Home Energy Programs

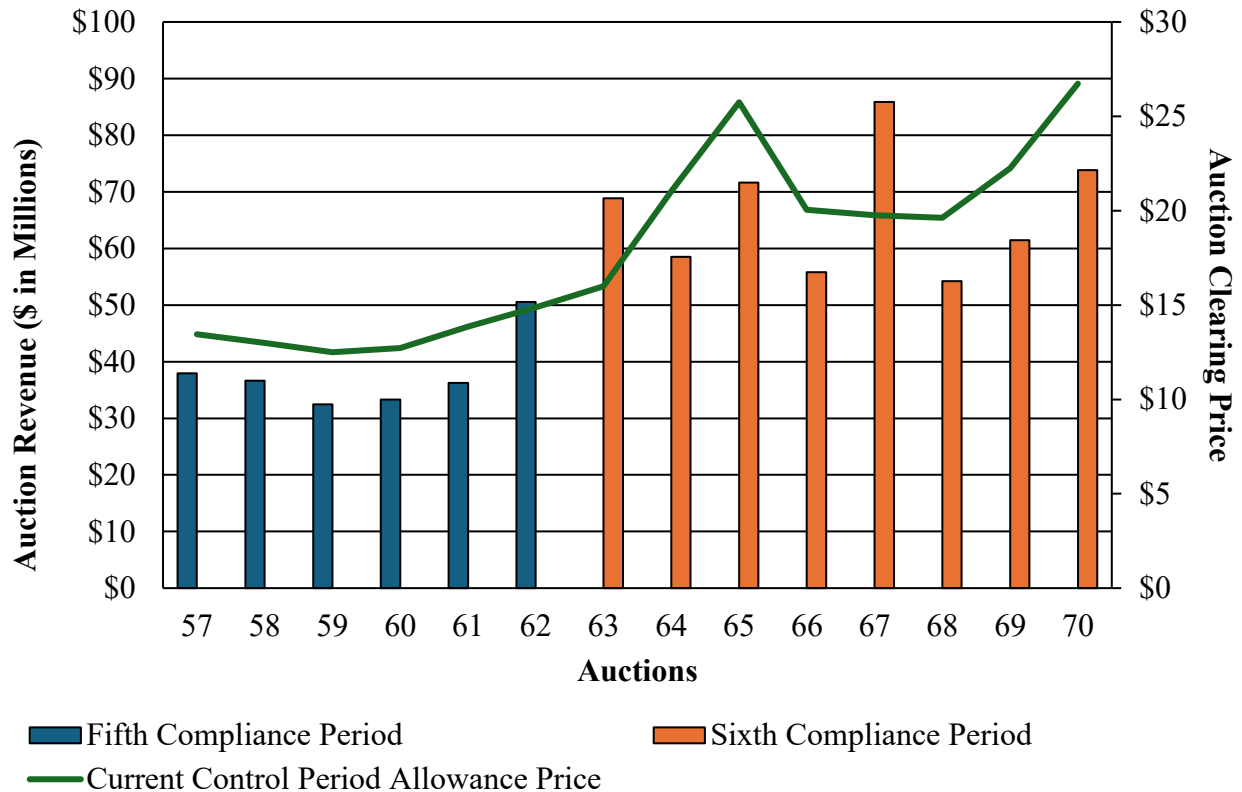
Source: Department of Human Services; Department of Legislative Services

SEIF

Section 9-20B-05 of the State Government Article requires that at least 50% of the revenue received by the State from its participation in RGGI program auctions for carbon dioxide emission allowances is directed to energy assistance. Since the beginning of the RGGI program, RGGI auction revenue has shown substantial variation due to changes in market demand for allowances. As shown in **Exhibit 7**, revenues have grown substantially in recent years due to increases in RGGI auction clearing prices. The most recent auction, Auction 70, resulted in the highest auction clearing price in the history of the RGGI program (\$26.73 per allowance), surpassing the previous

highest auction clearing price of \$25.75 achieved in Auction 65 (September 2024). Since Auction 64 (June 2024), clearing prices have exceeded \$19.00 per allowance and are substantially higher than those achieved in any auction held prior to that point.

Exhibit 7
RGGI Auction Revenue
Fiscal 2023-2026 (through December)



RGGI: Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

Source: Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, Inc; Department of Legislative Services

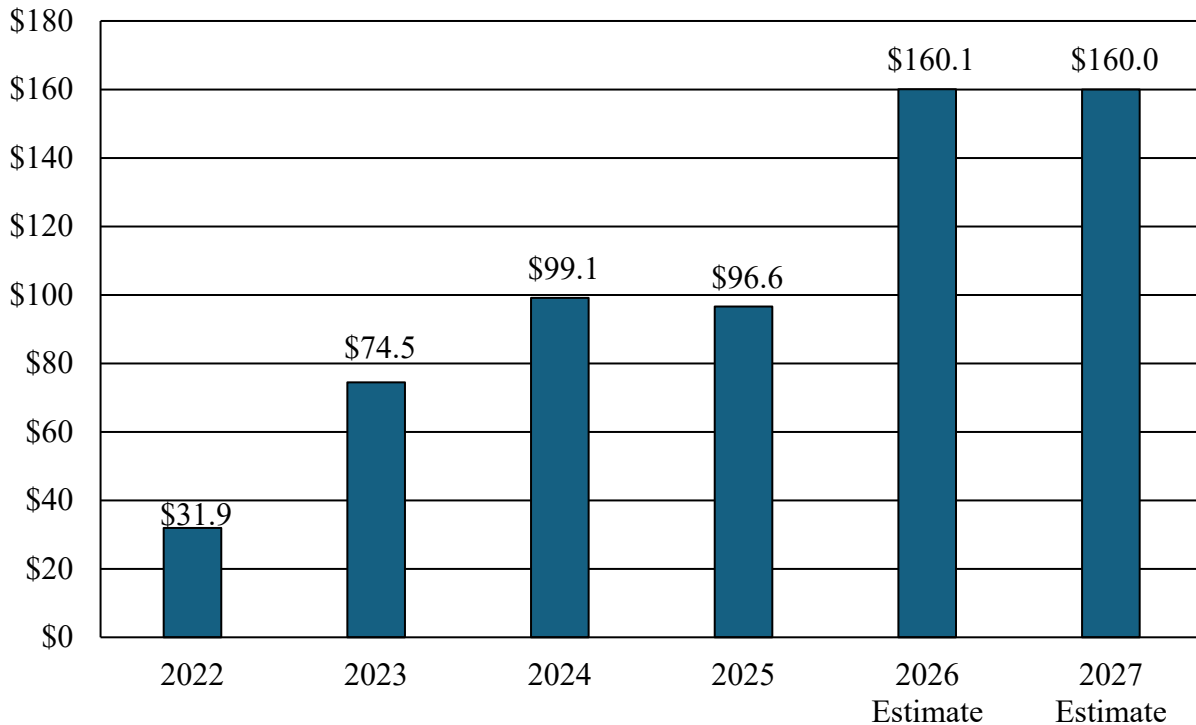
Total RGGI program revenues received by Maryland from all auctions held during fiscal 2025 totaled \$267.5 million, which is the highest yearly revenue in program history. Fiscal 2025 revenue increased by \$53.3 million, or 24.9%, compared to fiscal 2024 revenue. Fiscal 2024 had the highest revenue total for a single fiscal year prior to fiscal 2025 at \$214.2 million. Through the first two quarterly auctions held in fiscal 2026, Maryland RGGI program revenues totaled \$135.3 million, which puts the State on pace to at least reach fiscal 2025 revenue levels.

Forecasting RGGI-sourced SEIF revenues over multiple years can be challenging due to the dynamic nature of auction clearing prices. Historically, due to variations in auction clearing prices and revenues attained from RGGI auctions, the amount of revenues budgeted in many years did not generally align well with actual auction revenues attained. As a result, these year-to-year variations led to a buildup of fund balance in some years but resulted in mid-year program reductions in others. To stabilize program funding, the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) began estimating revenue for the budget using the minimum auction clearing prices with any overattainment of revenue compared to that minimum budgeted in the following year. While this conservative method of projecting revenues helped to avoid mid-year contraction or elimination of programming, this method of budgeting resulted in large fund balances accruing in the SEIF while awaiting allocation in the subsequent budget cycle.

Beginning with the fiscal 2023 budget, MEA altered its revenue projection method used for budget development by raising the estimated auction clearing price amount used for these projections from the minimum auction clearing price to a rolling average of the actual clearing prices of auctions held during the two most recent prior fiscal years with any overattainment of revenue compared to the estimated auction clearing price continuing to be allocated during the subsequent budget cycle (for example, overattainment above the estimated clearing price from auctions held during fiscal 2025 is available for the fiscal 2027 budget). In development of the fiscal 2027 budget, MEA used an estimated clearing price of \$21.40 per allowance to estimate revenues from future auctions, which represents the average of the actual auction clearing prices for the eight most recent auctions.

Exhibit 8 provides a historical summary of the annual levels of SEIF funds budgeted for energy assistance through OHEP. The fiscal 2027 allowance includes \$160.0 million in SEIF funds, a decrease of \$0.1 million compared to the \$160.1 million included in the fiscal 2026 working appropriation. The fiscal 2026 working appropriation includes \$10.1 million provided to support MEAP due to delays in the release of federal fiscal 2026 LIHEAP funds. Compared to fiscal 2025 spending, the fiscal 2027 allowance represents an increase of \$63.4 million. These notably higher levels of SEIF funds budgeted for energy assistance reflect the significant growth that has occurred in the overall availability of RGGI auction revenue to the State.

Exhibit 8
SEIF Spending for Energy Assistance
Fiscal 2022-2027 Estimate
(\$ in Millions)



SEIF: Strategic Energy Investment Fund

Note: Fiscal 2026 estimate included \$10.1 million provided to support Maryland Energy Assistance Program due to delays in the release of federal fiscal 2026 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program funds.

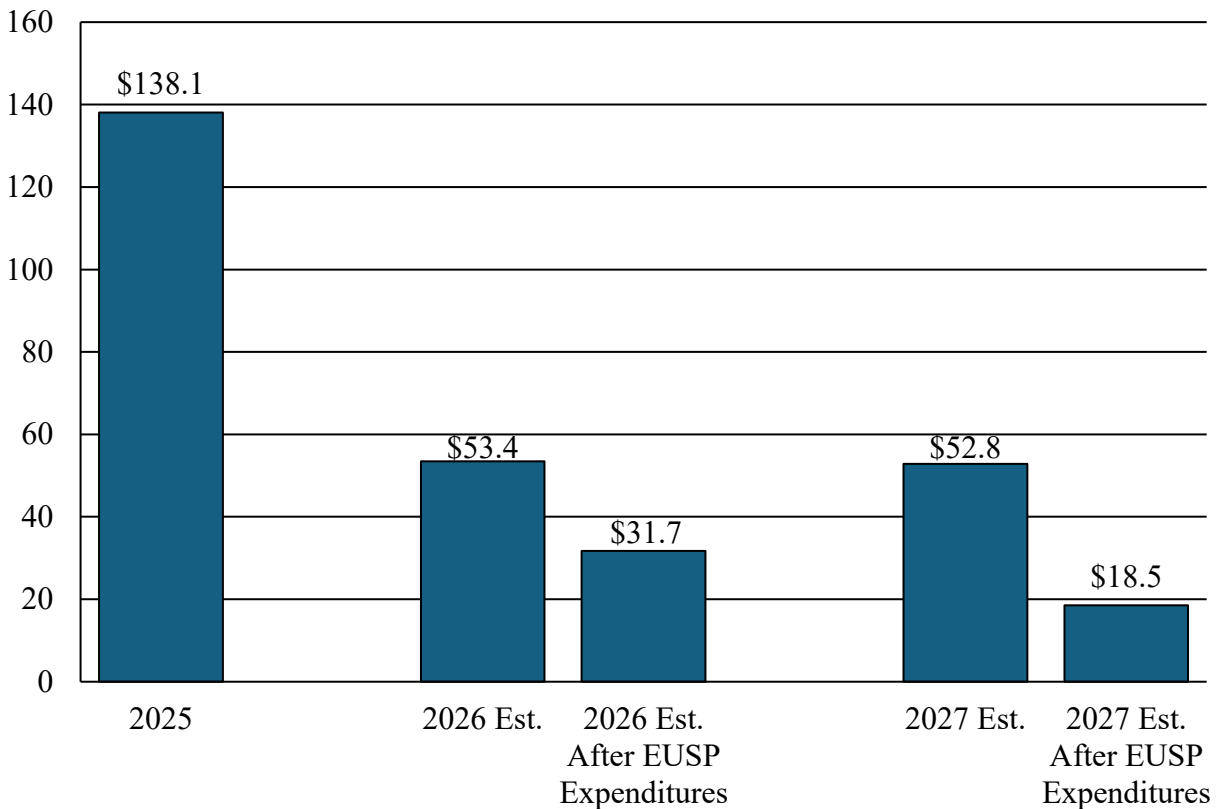
Source: Governor’s Fiscal 2027 Budget Books

Energy Assistance Fund Balance

As shown in **Exhibit 9**, at the close of fiscal 2025, the balance of the energy assistance subaccount of the SEIF was \$138.1 million, after accounting for encumbrances. The anticipated closing balance totals \$52.8 million in fiscal 2027. If DHS uses the SEIF to cover all expenditures budgeted from EUSP ratepayer surcharge revenue in error in both fiscal 2026 and 2027, the anticipated closing balance will be \$31.7 million in fiscal 2026 and \$18.5 million in fiscal 2027. DLS notes that the funds in the energy assistance subaccount of the SEIF are only authorized to support energy assistance. **DHS should comment on how much of the expenditures that were**

budgeted from EUSP ratepayer surcharge revenue in error will be covered by SEIF. Given that some of the EUSP overages are associated with administrative expenses, DHS should discuss how it intends to cover those expenses.

Exhibit 9
Estimated Energy Assistance Portion of the SEIF Fund Balance
Fiscal 2025-2027 Est.
(\$ in Millions)



EUSP: Electric Universal Service Program
SEIF: Strategic Energy Investment Fund

Note: The balances are net of encumbrances. Fiscal 2026 and 2027 estimated balances assume the full utilization of the fiscal 2026 and 2027 appropriations.

Source: Governor’s Fiscal 2027 Budget Books

Personnel Data

	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26-27
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Working</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Change</u>
Regular Positions	14.00	13.00	11.00	-2.00
Contractual FTEs	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Personnel	14.00	13.00	11.00	-2.00

Vacancy Data: Regular Positions

Turnover and Necessary Vacancies, Excluding New Positions	0.90	8.63%
Positions and Percentage Vacant as of 12/31/25	0	0%
Vacancies Below Turnover	0.90	

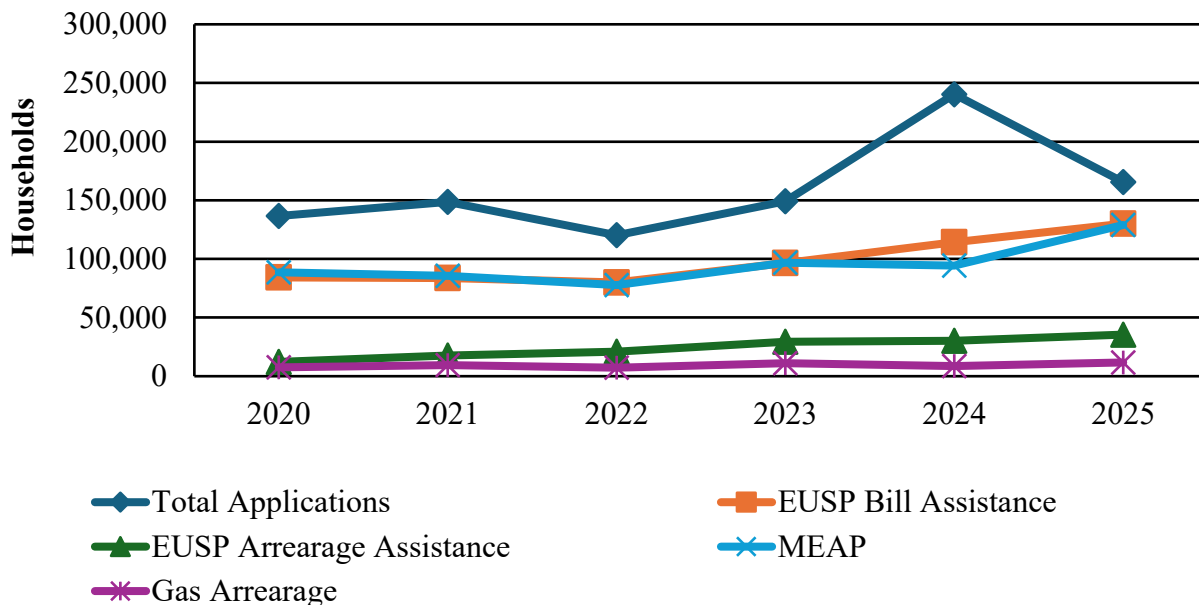
- The number of positions in OHEP decreases by 2.0 in fiscal 2027, of which 1.0 position is internally transferred within DHS and 1.0 position is closed. However, the total number of overall positions in DHS remains unchanged in fiscal 2027. **Given that a position is closed in OHEP and the total positions in DHS remain unchanged, DHS should comment on if or where there is a new authorized position in fiscal 2027.**
- In fiscal 2026, authority over Maryland Benefits (formerly the Maryland Total Human-services Integrated Network) transferred from DHS to the Department of Information Technology (DoIT). As part of this transfer in authority, 1.0 position was transferred from OHEP to DoIT.

Issues

1. Energy Assistance Applications Decrease in Fiscal 2025

As shown in **Exhibit 10**, total applications for energy assistance benefits have fluctuated in recent years. In fiscal 2024, the number of applications for energy assistance increased by 61.1%. Increases in the demand for energy assistance in fiscal 2024 can be primarily attributed to Chapter 207 of 2023, which altered the annual income eligibility level for EUSP to 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL). Prior to the enactment of Chapter 207, eligibility for the EUSP program was 175% of FPL generally and 200% for applicants age 67 or older. Additionally, Chapter 207 revised the criteria for household eligibility in all OHEP energy assistance programs to establish categorical income eligibility and automatic enrollment for households receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Supplemental Security Income, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or means-tested Veterans Affairs benefits.

Exhibit 10
Energy Assistance Benefits Provision History
Fiscal 2020-2025



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

Source: Department of Human Services

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In fiscal 2025, the number of applications for energy assistance decreased by 31.2% compared with the fiscal 2024 levels. DHS reports that this decrease is associated with improvements in data reporting. Data validation of the applications received in fiscal 2024 revealed that multiple or incomplete applications from the same household were counted separately, inflating the total application count. In fiscal 2025, DHS updated its system to detect and remove duplicate or incomplete applications. Similarly, automatic enrollments are counted only after confirming that household data is complete and that no other applications exist for that household. Compared to fiscal 2023, the number of applications for energy assistance increased by 10.9% in fiscal 2025.

Although the number of applications received in fiscal 2025 declined, the number of households receiving benefits increased. As shown in Exhibit 10, between fiscal 2020 and 2025, the number of households receiving energy assistance benefits increased among all benefit types. Compared to fiscal 2024, the number of households receiving EUSP bill assistance increased by 13.8%, MEAP increased by 36.9%, EUSP arrearage assistance increased by 17.5%, and gas arrearage increased by 35.2%. The significant increase in households receiving MEAP and gas arrearage assistance in fiscal 2025 is primarily due to OHEP pausing issuance of benefits in fiscal 2024. In April 2024, funding for MEAP and the gas arrearage assistance programs was exhausted, and DHS stopped issuing new benefits under the program. All pending MEAP applications, including gas arrearage assistance grant applications, were denied, thus decreasing the recipients of MEAP and gas arrearage assistance. In fiscal 2025, the benefit amounts were reduced for the bill payment programs to accommodate the anticipated increase in the number of eligible households.

Supplemental Benefit

Leading up to fiscal 2025, OHEP reduced the benefit amounts for that year for the bill payment programs based on the expected need to accommodate the increased number of eligible households within the available funding, so as to avoid a second year of exhausting funds and having to stop issuing benefits. However, even with the increased number of recipients, benefit expenditures were lower than expected in fiscal 2025 due to these lower levels. As a result, OHEP issued supplemental benefits at the end of the year for EUSP bill assistance and MEAP. The supplemental benefits were provided based on the benefit levels. As shown in **Exhibit 11**, the supplemental benefits for both EUSP and MEAP ranged from \$150 to \$400.

Exhibit 11
Supplemental Benefit for EUSP Bill Assistance and MEAP
Fiscal 2025

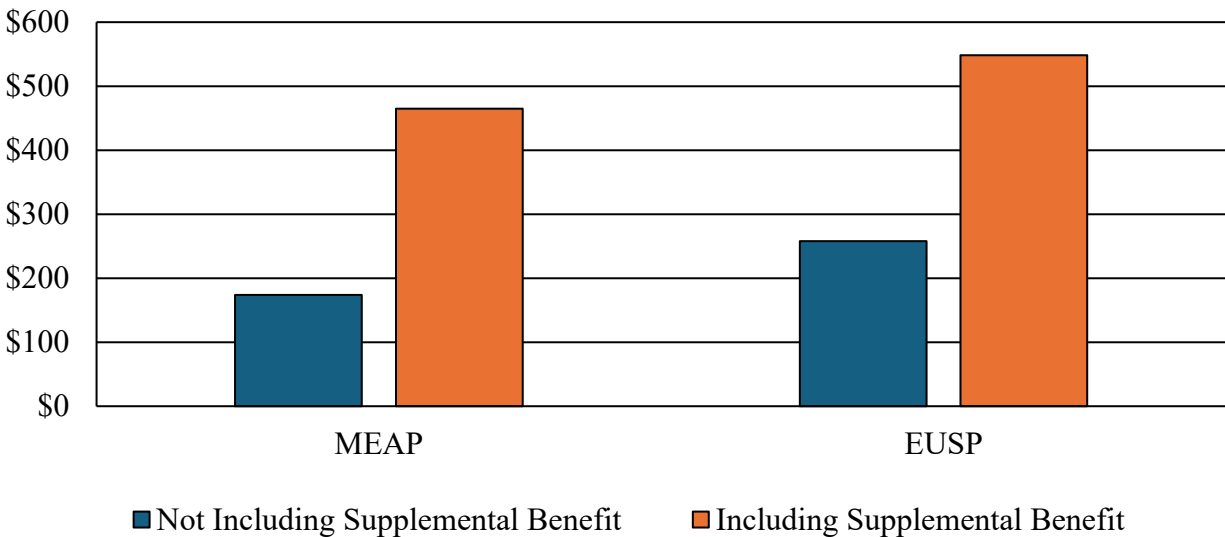
<u>Benefit Level</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Supplemental Benefit</u>
1	0 to 25%	\$400
2	26 to 50%	350
3	51 to 100%	300
4	101 to 150%	250
5	151 to 200%	200
6	Subsidized Housing/Submetered	288
7	Categorically Eligible Households That Exceed 200% of the Federal Poverty Level	150

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

Source: Department of Human Services

As shown in **Exhibit 12**, not accounting for the supplemental benefit, the average MEAP payment in fiscal 2025 was \$174, and the average EUSP payment was \$258. The average supplemental benefit provided for MEAP was \$272, and for EUSP was \$291. Accounting for the supplemental benefits, average MEAP assistance was \$465, and the average EUSP payment was \$549 in fiscal 2025.

Exhibit 12
Average Benefits Paid
Fiscal 2025



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

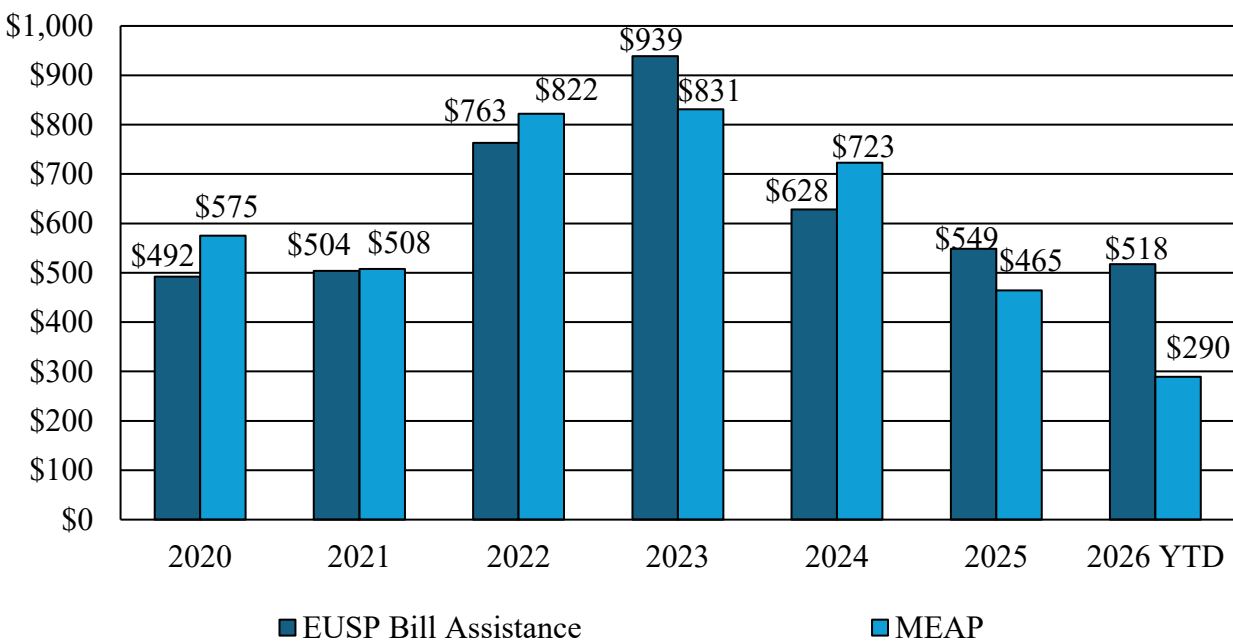
Source: Department of Human Services

Average Benefit Size

From fiscal 2021 to 2023, the average benefit increased by 86.3% for the EUSP bill payment assistance program, from \$504 to \$939, and increased by 63.6% for MEAP, from \$508 to \$831. As shown in **Exhibit 13**, the average benefit size for both bill payment assistance programs decreased in fiscal 2024 following two consecutive years of increase. In that year, the average benefit for MEAP decreased by 33.1%, and EUSP bill payment assistance decreased by 13.0%. In fiscal 2025, after accounting for the supplemental benefits, the average benefit for the MEAP program decreased by \$258, or 35.7%, and the average benefit for the EUSP bill payment assistance program decreased by \$80, or 12.7%, compared to fiscal 2024. Each year, OHEP examines expected numbers of applications and recipients and adjusts benefit levels based on estimated available funding and recipient levels. In fiscal 2026, DHS revised its estimate for eligible households for energy assistance to be 200,000. Comparatively, in fiscal 2025, this estimate was 270,000. As the estimated number of eligible households decreased, OHEP increased the benefit amounts in fiscal 2026 for the bill payment programs. However, the increased benefit level is lower than the benefit provided in fiscal 2025 after accounting for supplemental benefits. Compared to fiscal 2025, accounting for the supplemental benefit, in fiscal 2026 (through December), the average benefit for the MEAP program decreased by \$175, or 37.7%, and the

average benefit for the EUSP bill payment assistance program decreased by \$31, or 5.6%. Average benefits in fiscal 2026 remain substantially below benefit levels in prior years. Compared to fiscal 2023, the benefits in fiscal 2026 have decreased by 44.9% for EUSP bill assistance and by 65.2% for MEAP. While the EUSP benefit is above the levels in fiscal 2021 and 2022, the MEAP benefit is substantially below the levels in those years as well.

Exhibit 13
Average Benefit Size for Bill Payment Assistance Programs
Fiscal 2020-2026 YTD



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

Source: Department of Human Services

Applications, Recipients, and Average Benefit Size in Fiscal 2026

As shown in **Exhibit 14**, through December 2025, fiscal 2026 applications for all energy assistance, except for the crisis benefit program, have increased compared to applications during the same period in fiscal 2025. The largest increases in applications year to date have been for the two arrearage assistance programs, with gas arrearage assistance applications increasing by 71.7% and EUSP arrearage assistance applications increasing by 36.9%. Applications for bill assistance increased by 25.2% for EUSP bill payment assistance and 25.6% for MEAP. Applications for the

crisis benefit program decreased by 86.1%, from 496 in fiscal 2025 to 69 in fiscal 2026. The increases indicate continued high demand for energy assistance in fiscal 2026 as energy prices have continued to increase through the first half of the fiscal year. However, this increase in applications does not account for the impacts of the prolonged cold weather and recent increase in utility rates that occurred after December 2025. **DHS should comment on if it has seen additional recent growth in applications.**

Exhibit 14
Energy Assistance Applications and Benefit Data
Fiscal 2025-2026
(July through December of Each Year)

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Applications				
MEAP	96,879	121,679	24,800	25.6%
EUSP Bill Payment	97,480	122,039	24,559	25.2%
EUSP Arrearage				
Retirement	55,941	76,589	20,648	36.9%
Gas Arrearage				
Retirement	26,033	44,690	18,657	71.7%
Crisis	496	69	-427	-86.1%
Receiving Benefits				
MEAP	69,484	80,170	10,686	15.4%
EUSP Bill Payment	69,941	80,778	10,837	15.5%
EUSP Arrearage				
Retirement	16,250	15,158	-1,092	-6.7%
Gas Arrearage				
Retirement	5,086	5,686	600	11.8%
Crisis	141	31	-110	-78.0%
Percentage of Bill Paid (Lowest Income Level)				
Electric Cost Paid by				
EUSP and MEAP	63%	66%	3%	
Average Benefit				
MEAP	\$186	\$290	\$104	55.7%
EUSP Bill Payment	252	518	266	105.4%
EUSP Arrearage	958	966	8	0.9%
Gas Arrearage	661	675	14	2.2%
Crisis Program	458	445	-13	-2.8%

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	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Benefits Paid (\$ in Millions)				
MEAP	\$13	\$23	\$10	79.4%
EUSP Bill Payment	18	42	24	136.8%
EUSP Arrearage	16	15	-1	-5.9%
Gas Arrearage	3	4	0	14.2%
Crisis Program	0.06	0.01	-0.05	-78.4%
Total Benefits Paid	\$50	\$84	\$34	68.4%

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

Note: The monthly data reported for fiscal 2025 did not account for the supplemental benefit provided near the end of the year, resulting in the fiscal 2025 reported average benefits through December lower than the final averages.

Source: Department of Human Services

Consistent with the higher number of applications, the number of households receiving energy assistance benefits has also increased for all programs except for the EUSP arrearage assistance program. The largest increase was in recipients of EUSP and MEAP, which increased by 15.4% and 15.5%, respectively. Households receiving gas arrearage assistance increased by 11.8%. However, the households receiving EUSP arrearage assistance decreased by 6.7%. Households are eligible to receive gas arrearage assistance and EUSP arrearage assistance once every five years, unless they qualify for vulnerable population waiver or if they receive Medical Certification Form. Limitations on eligibility for these programs result in higher rates of denials, as well as fluctuations in the number of households receiving benefits each year.

Total benefits paid in fiscal 2026 (through December) have increased by \$33.9 million, or 68.4%, compared to benefits paid during the same time period in fiscal 2025. This increase is primarily due to the benefits paid through December 2024 not accounting for supplemental benefits provided later in the fiscal year.

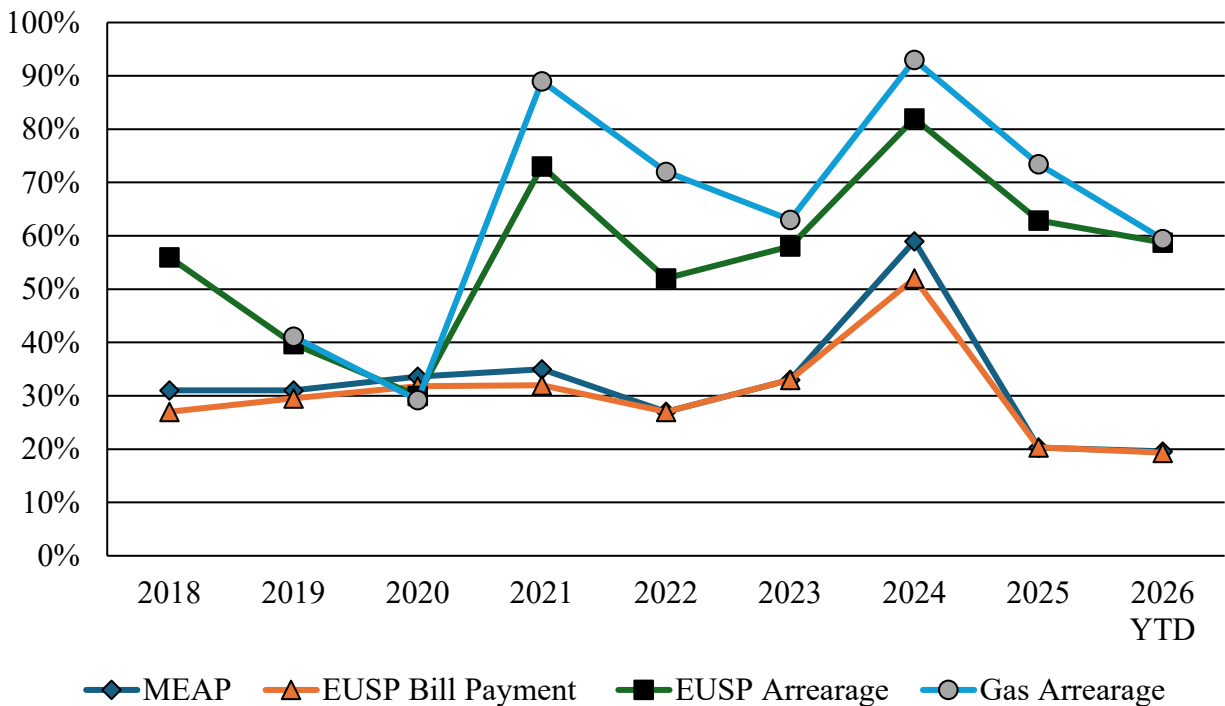
2. Energy Assistance Application Denial Rates and Reasons for Denial

In an effort to monitor energy assistance application and denial rates, language in the fiscal 2026 Budget Bill restricted funds pending the submission of a report on application denial rates by energy assistance benefit type and the most common reasons for application denials by benefit type. A report providing fiscal 2024 information was submitted in July 2025 and a report providing fiscal 2025 and 2026 year-to-date data was submitted in December 2025.

As shown in **Exhibit 15**, application denial rates in fiscal 2024 for all benefit types were the highest since at least fiscal 2014. DHS notes that the substantial increase in denial rates in

fiscal 2024 is associated with implementation of categorical eligibility that began in that year. DHS received an increased number of applications requiring additional review and documentation, without which the applications were denied. Additionally, in April 2024, funding for MEAP and the gas arrearage assistance programs was exhausted, and DHS stopped issuing new benefits under the program. All pending MEAP applications, including gas arrearage assistance grant applications, were denied, contributing to the increase in denial rates. In fiscal 2025, application denial rates decreased significantly. Denial rates for EUSP arrearage assistance and gas arrearage assistance programs decreased from 82% and 93%, respectively, in fiscal 2024 to around 63% and 73%, respectively, in fiscal 2025. Similarly, denial rates for MEAP decreased by 38.7 percentage points, to 20.3%, and denial rates for EUSP bill payment assistance decreased by 31.7 percentage points, to 20.3%. DHS attributes this decrease to system enhancements, staff training, and increased efficiencies implementing categorical eligibility.

Exhibit 15
Application Denial Rates by Benefit Type
Fiscal 2018-2026 (through November 1, 2025)



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

Source: Department of Human Services

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Denial rates have decreased for all benefit types during fiscal 2026 (as of November 1, 2025) compared to fiscal 2025. Gas arrearage assistance applications have experienced the largest decrease in denial rates in fiscal 2026 with a 14-percentage point decrease compared to fiscal 2025. Despite the decrease, the gas arrearage assistance program continues to have the highest overall denial rate of all programs in fiscal 2026, at 59.4%. The denial rate for the EUSP arrearage assistance program declined by 4.2 percentage points in fiscal 2026, to 58.7%. The denial rate for the EUSP bill payment assistance program decreased by 1.0 percentage point to 19.6%, and the MEAP program denial rate decreased by 0.7 percentage points to 19.3%. If the EUSP bill payment assistance denial rate stays at that level through the remainder of the year, it would be the lowest denial rate for that program since fiscal 2014.

As shown in **Exhibit 16**, in fiscal 2026 (through November 1, 2025), the most common reason for application denial for MEAP, EUSP and the gas arrearage assistance program was due to an application with incomplete information, while this was the second most common reason for the EUSP arrearage assistance program. For the EUSP arrearage assistance program, the most common reason for denial was the applicant receiving arrearage assistance in the last five years. The second most common reason for application denial for MEAP and EUSP was due to a household having an income level over the eligibility threshold. The second most common reason for application denial for the gas arrearage assistance program was not meeting the arrearage balance, while this was the third most common reason for the EUSP arrearage assistance program. Incomplete information and income over the eligibility threshold have remained the most common reasons for denial for MEAP and EUSP since fiscal 2021. 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. As required by Chapters 638 and 639 of 2021, DHS provides a three-month curing period for an applicant if the submitted application provides incomplete information.

Exhibit 16
Application Denial Rates by Benefit Type and Reason
Fiscal 2026 (through November 1, 2025)

<u>Program</u>	<u>Most Common Reason for Denial</u>	<u>Second-most Common Reason for Denial</u>	<u>Third-most Common Reason for Denial</u>
MEAP	Incomplete Information	Over Income	Other – Ineligible
EUSP Bill Payment	Incomplete Information	Over Income	Other – Ineligible
EUSP Arrearage	Received Arrearage Assistance in the Last Five Years	Incomplete Information	Did Not Meet the Arrearage Balance Requirements
Gas Arrearage	Incomplete Information	Did Not Meet the Arrearage Balance Requirements	Received Arrearage Assistance in the Last Five Years

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

Source: Department of Human Services

3. Energy Assistance Application Processing Times

The budget language requiring the report on application denials also requested information on average processing times for applications. Processing times for energy assistance applications are reported through two performance measures: (1) average number of days to process (certify or deny applications); and (2) percentage of applications processed within certain time frames. While there are no formal processing time standards, the utility 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 17**, in fiscal 2026 (through November 1, 2025), the statewide average number of days to process an application is 25 days. This average represents an increase of 3 days compared to the fiscal 2025 average. Increases in the average number of days to process applications since fiscal 2025 have occurred in 7 LAAs, while 12 saw decreases, and 1 remained constant. The largest increase in application processing time was an increase of 12 days in Queen Anne’s County, followed by Caroline County with an increase of 10 days. The largest decrease in application processing times occurred in Howard County. DHS reported that 2 LAAs

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had average processing times of over 40 days as of November 1, 2025, while 10 LAAs had average processing times of under 20 days. DHS notes that the increase in application processing days in the Queen Anne’s County Department of Social Services (DSS) was due to significant staff turnover. As for the Caroline County DSS, DHS notes that it will provide training and will also conduct monitoring of the DSS in fiscal 2026.

Exhibit 17
Average Days to Process Energy Assistance Applications
Fiscal 2024-2026

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u> <u>(Through November 1)</u>	<u>Change 2025-2026</u>
Allegany County DSS	11	13	16	3
Anne Arundel County CAC	67	54	40	-14
Baltimore City Mayor’s Office of Children and Family Success	62	13	13	0
Baltimore County DSS	23	33	23	-10
Caroline County DSS	17	49	59	10
Human Service Programs of Carroll County Inc.	17	17	15	-2
Cecil County DSS	21	34	32	-2
Dorchester County DSS	29	18	19	1
City of Frederick Housing and Human Services	31	34	23	-11
Garrett County CAC	3	3	1	-2
Harford County CAC	17	12	14	2
Howard County CAC	44	57	38	-19
Kent County DSS	10	23	5	-18
Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services	53	48	45	-3
Prince George’s County DSS	72	19	24	5
Queen Anne’s County DSS	26	14	26	12
Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action Committee Inc. (Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary’s counties)	47	31	35	4

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	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u> <u>(Through November 1)</u>	<u>Change 2025-2026</u>
Neighborhood Service Center (Talbot County)	6	8	4	-4
Washington County CAC	32	14	12	-2
Shore UP! (Somerset, Worcester, and Wicomico counties)	35	16	13	-3
Total	31	22	25	3

CAC: community action council
DSS: department of social services

Source: Department of Human Services

Applications Processed Beyond the 55-day Guideline

As shown in **Exhibit 18**, in fiscal 2026 (through November 1, 2025), 7.9% of applications statewide have been processed in longer than 55 days, a decrease of 4.6 percentage points from the fiscal 2025 average. In both fiscal 2025 and 2026, the LAA serving Caroline County has processed the highest percentage of applications in longer than 55 days at 44.1% and 60.8%, respectively. In fiscal 2026, three other LAAs had over 20% of applications processed beyond the 55-day guideline: Montgomery County (26.0%); the Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action Committee, Inc. (Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary’s counties) (24.5%); and Howard County (23.8%). The majority of LAAs, 14, had fewer than 10% of applications processed beyond the 55-day guideline in fiscal 2026 (through November 1, 2025). **DHS should comment on the reasons for the high percentages of applications processed beyond 55 days for the Caroline County DSS; the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services; the Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action Committee, Inc.; and the Howard County Community Action Council.**

Exhibit 18
Applications Processed Beyond the 55-day Guideline
Fiscal 2024-2026

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u> <u>(Through November 1)</u>	<u>2025-2026</u> <u>Change</u>
Allegany County DSS	0.0%	2.0%	0.6%	-1.4%
Anne Arundel County CAC	50.0%	34.4%	18.0%	-16.4%
Baltimore City Mayor’s Office of Children and Family Success	46.0%	5.7%	7.0%	1.2%
Baltimore County DSS	1.0%	13.2%	2.3%	-10.9%
Caroline County DSS	3.0%	44.1%	60.8%	16.7%
Human Service Programs of Carroll County Inc.	1.0%	3.0%	1.1%	-1.9%
Cecil County DSS	1.0%	10.2%	14.0%	3.7%
Dorchester County DSS	14.0%	2.5%	0.6%	-1.8%
City of Frederick Housing and Human Services	0.0%	4.4%	1.0%	-3.4%
Garrett County CAC	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%
Harford County CAC	0.0%	2.9%	1.4%	-1.5%
Howard County CAC	24.0%	40.4%	23.8%	-16.6%
Kent County DSS	0.0%	3.8%	0.5%	-3.2%
Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services	45.0%	37.8%	26.0%	-11.9%
Prince George’s County DSS	53.0%	5.3%	1.4%	-3.9%
Queen Anne’s County DSS	0.0%	2.1%	1.2%	-0.9%
Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action Committee Inc. (Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary’s counties)	35.0%	15.7%	24.5%	8.8%
Neighborhood Service Center (Talbot County)	0.0%	0.5%	0.3%	-0.2%
Washington County CAC	15.0%	4.3%	0.7%	-3.6%
Shore UP! (Somerset, Worcester, and Wicomico counties)	26.0%	5.6%	3.6%	-2.1%
Total	29%	12.5%	7.91%	-4.6%

CAC: Community Action Council

DSS: Department of Social Services

Source: Department of Human Services

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DLS determined that the information provided complies with the language restricting the special funds, and DLS therefore recommends the release of \$250,000 in withheld special funds. DLS will process a letter to this effect if no objections are raised by the committees during the budget hearings.

DLS recommends restricting funds pending submission of a report on energy assistance application processing times and denial rates.

Operating Budget Recommended Actions

	Amount Change
1. Reduce general funds for personnel expenses. The Office of Home Energy Programs administrative costs are supported with special and federal funds.	-\$46,229 GF
2. Add the following language to special fund appropriation: <u>, provided that \$250,000 of this appropriation made for the purposes of administrative expenses may not be expended until the Department of Human Services submits a report with data on energy assistance application processing times by local administering agencies (LAA) and overall program denial rates. The report shall include:</u> (1) <u>the number of applications received;</u> (2) <u>the average number of days to process an application; and</u> (3) <u>the number and percentage of applications processed within 30 days, 55 days, and longer than 60 days.</u>	

The report shall discuss the primary reasons for any substantial changes in processing times that have occurred for individual LAAs between fiscal 2026 and 2027 year-to-date data. The report shall also provide application denial rates separately by benefit type as well as the share of application denials by reasons separately by benefit type. Data shall 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 under Chapters 638 and 639 of 2021. Fiscal 2026 end-of-year actual data for denial rates shall be included in the report as well as fiscal 2027 data current through November 1, 2026. The report shall be submitted by December 31, 2026, and the budget committees shall have 45 days to review and comment from the date of receipt of the report. Funds restricted pending the receipt of a report may not be transferred by budget amendment or otherwise to any other purpose and shall be canceled if the report is not submitted.

Appendix 1
2025 Joint Chairmen’s Report Responses from Agency

The 2025 JCR requested that DHS prepare four reports. Electronic copies of the full JCR responses can be found on the DLS Library website.

- ***Application Processing Times and Denial Rates:*** Two reports were submitted providing application processing times and denial rates. In fiscal 2026 (through November 1, 2025), the statewide average number of days to process an application is 25 days. Further discussion of this data can be found in Issues 2 and 3 of this analysis.
- ***Energy Assistance Participation Rates for Vulnerable Populations:*** A report was submitted providing fiscal 2024 MFR data, and fiscal 2025 MFR was submitted with the fiscal 2027 budget. The share of eligible households receiving benefits in fiscal 2025 that included an individual over age 60 was 39.1%, the share of households with an individual who was disabled was 30.9%, and the share of households with a child under age 6 was 18.0%. Further discussion of this data can be found in Performance Analysis section of this analysis.

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

<u>Object/Fund</u>	<u>FY 25 Actual</u>	<u>FY 26 Wrk. Approp.</u>	<u>FY 27 Allowance</u>	<u>FY 26 - 27 \$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Positions					
01 Regular	14.00	13.00	11.00	-2.00	-15.4%
02 Contractual	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	N/A
Total Positions	14.00	13.00	11.00	-2.00	-15.4%
Objects					
01 Salaries, Wages, and Fringe Benefits	\$3,316,410	\$1,469,167	\$1,090,017	-\$379,150	-25.8%
02 Technical and Special Fees	105,860	3,500	7,000	3,500	100.0%
03 Communications	41,305	485,654	485,653	-1	0.0%
04 Travel	4,468	0	0	0	N/A
06 Fuel and Utilities	7,670	7,670	7,670	0	0.0%
08 Contractual Services	209,622,673	299,556,914	299,192,459	-364,455	-0.1%
09 Supplies and Materials	71,095	111,738	108,238	-3,500	-3.1%
11 Equipment – Additional	399	0	0	0	N/A
12 Grants, Subsidies, and Contributions	420,036	0	0	0	N/A
13 Fixed Charges	11,650	8,850	8,850	0	0.0%
Total Objects	\$213,601,566	\$301,643,493	\$300,899,887	-\$743,606	-0.2%
Funds					
01 General Funds	\$419,607	\$0	\$46,229	\$46,229	N/A
03 Special Funds	134,002,616	207,465,556	206,146,577	-1,318,979	-0.6%
05 Federal Funds	79,179,343	94,177,937	94,707,081	529,144	0.6%
Total Funds	\$213,601,566	\$301,643,493	\$300,899,887	-\$743,606	-0.2%

Note: The fiscal 2026 appropriation includes proposed deficiency appropriations. The fiscal 2027 allowance does not include statewide salary adjustments budgeted within the Department of Budget and Management.

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

<u>Program/Unit</u>	<u>FY 25 Actual</u>	<u>FY 26 Wrk. Approp.</u>	<u>FY 27 Allowance</u>	<u>FY 26 - 27</u>	
				<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
06 Office of Home Energy Programs	\$213,601,566	\$301,643,493	\$300,899,887	-\$743,606	-0.2%
Total Expenditures	\$213,601,566	\$301,643,493	\$300,899,887	-\$743,606	-0.2%
General Funds	\$419,607	\$0	\$46,229	\$46,229	n/a
Special Funds	134,002,616	207,465,556	206,146,577	-1,318,979	-0.6%
Federal Funds	79,179,343	94,177,937	94,707,081	529,144	0.6%
Total Appropriations	\$213,601,566	\$301,643,493	\$300,899,887	-\$743,606	-0.2%

Note: The fiscal 2026 appropriation includes proposed deficiency appropriations. The fiscal 2027 allowance does not include statewide salary adjustments budgeted within the Department of Budget and Management.