



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
Maryland's Social Services Agency



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release:

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For more information:

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**HOME ENERGY PROGRAM PREPARES FOR NEW HEATING SEASON-
SEEKS COMMENTS ON STATE PLAN**

BALTIMORE – The Maryland Department of Human Resources is serving people through its Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP). The Maryland Energy Assistance Program provides assistance with home heating bills.

The program will start accepting applications for program year 2016 on July 1, 2015 and will end May 31, 2016. MEAP plans to serve approximately 177,750 households with an average grant of \$520.

To prepare for the 2016 program year, the Department will be conducting two public hearings to garner public comment on its proposed state operational plan and its integrity plan. The state plan outlines strategies to provide services to assist citizens to meet their increasing energy cost. The integrity plan outlines policies and procedures to identify and address fraud. The proposed annual State Plans are available for review on www.dhr.maryland.gov/ohep. Recommendations will be considered in developing the final program plan.

There will be two public hearings, the first one in Dorchester County on June 9, 2015 at Dorchester County DSS and the second one in Howard County on June 11, 2015 at Howard County Gateway Building. All are encouraged to participate in the public hearing process.

Public hearing schedule:

Dorchester County Department of Social Services

June 9, 2015 10 AM. – 12 PM.

627 Race Street

Cambridge, MD 21613

Conference Room

Contact: Peggy King

410-901-4201

Howard County Gateway Building

- Larry Hogan, Governor
- Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
- Sam Malholtra, Secretary

June 11, 2015 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
6751 Columbia Gateway Drive
Conference Room
Columbia, Maryland 21046
Contact: Anne Brinker
410-313-6481

If participants cannot attend the public hearing, the Department will accept written comments. Send written comments Vince Kilduff, Deputy Executive Director, Office of Programs at 311 West Saratoga Street, Room 239, Baltimore, Maryland 21201-3521. The deadline for receiving written comments is June 26, 2015.

The Maryland Department of Human Resources (DHR), the state's human service provider. DHR collaborates with 24 local jurisdictions to: provide foster care, adoption, and protective services to children; collect and distribute child support payments; provide protective services, case- management, supportive housing, in-home aide services, and respite care to vulnerable adults; and provide temporary cash, food stamps, and medical assistance to families. It also funds programs for homeless persons, refugees, and migrant workers. Last year, DHR served over one million people in need. In terms of its annual budget, DHR is Maryland's fifth largest state agency.

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