

ENERGY AFFORDABILITY PROGRAM \$200,000,000

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General Fund

Local Assistance Account - 10000

For prompt assistance to utility customers related to the costs of utility affordability programs authorized by the Public Service Commission and administered by the Department of Public Service, in consultation with the energy affordability policy working group. Additionally, the department shall establish a new, expanded discount program to provide utility bill relief to utility customers, in consultation with the energy affordability policy working group, for residential customers that do not currently qualify for the energy affordability policy program but whose income is below the state median income, provided however that the Public Service Commission shall consider the feasibility of using area median income or other eligibility thresholds in the event the use of state median income prevents reaching all households that have an energy burden greater than six percent. Residential customers of electric corporations regulated by the Public Service Commission and the Long Island Power Authority, and its service provider shall be eligible to participate in the new, expanded discount program. The department shall also establish a program for such purpose to provide an energy affordability guarantee to participating residential customers in the EmPower Plus Program administered by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority who electrify their homes in accordance with program standards required by the authority; provided, however, that the department is authorized to establish a cap on a residential customer's annual total electric usage by kilowatt hour applicable to the guarantee when establishing such program. The energy affordability guarantee shall provide that any participating residential customers in the EmPower Plus Program shall spend no more than six percent of household income on electric utility bills for the estimated useful life of the related electrification project. The energy affordability guarantee is to remain with the residence that participated in the Empower Plus Program and can transfer between tenants or owners through the electric corporation's application for service, provided however that the benefits of this program can only be transferred to eligible new tenants or owners. Amounts appropriated herein may be disbursed to the utilities, including the Long Island Power Authority, on behalf of utility customers as determined by the Department of Public Service based on their share of energy affordability policy program expenditures during calendar year 2022.