

Data Sharing Between Agencies and Public Utilities

2024 NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REGULATORY ATTORNEYS

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PA PUC, BUREAU OF CONSUMER SERVICES

PUC, DHS and DCED

Different agencies
with similar
objectives

Department of Human Services (DHS) - responsible for overseeing the Commonwealth's obligations under the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) statute, 42 USC §§ 8621 – 8630. Program issues grants to pay energy bills for low-income customers.

Department of Community and Economic Development's (DCED) – Administers the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) which works with community organizations to make low-income homes more energy efficient.

Public Utility Commission (PUC) - Charged by Pennsylvania statute, 66 Pa.C.S. §§101, et seq., to oversee public utility Universal Service and Energy Conservation Programs, which are intended to make jurisdictional utility service more affordable for low-income residents.

Exchanging information

Information is shared between these agencies in different ways

Quarterly Committee Meetings – LIHEAP Advisory Committee, WAP Policy Advisory Committee.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – The PUC and DCED have a memorandum to share weatherization data (without customer identifying information).

Weekly/Monthly/Quarterly Reports – LIHEAP & WAP updates, PUC quarterly and annual reporting.

Universal Service Working Group

Recommendations for how the PUC can help utilities make the most of the LIHEAP data sharing:

1. Individualized outreach and simplified/streamlined CAP enrollment
2. CAP auto-recertification
3. CAP auto-enrollment
4. Verification of income and household composition for LIURP and Hardship Fund Programs

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