

2022 Pittsburgh Be Utility Wise:

Engaging Together in Our Recovery

LEGAL SERVICES IN PENNSYLVANIA

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Pennsylvania Utility Law Project

PULP is a statewide specialty legal services program within the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network.

PULP's mission is to ensure that all low income Pennsylvanians can access and maintain safe and affordable utility service.

- Legal Representation
- Education
- Supportive Services
- Consultation



Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network

Pennsylvania's official statewide network of independent civil legal aid programs that provide free legal assistance to low-income individuals and families.



Local Legal Services Programs

Local Legal Aid Programs Serve All 67 Counties:

- Neighborhood Legal Services
- SW Legal Services
- Laurel Legal Services
- NW Legal Services
- MidPenn Legal Services
- North Penn Legal Services
- Community Legal Services
- Philadelphia Legal Assistance
- Legal Aid of Southeast Pennsylvania

Areas of Practice:

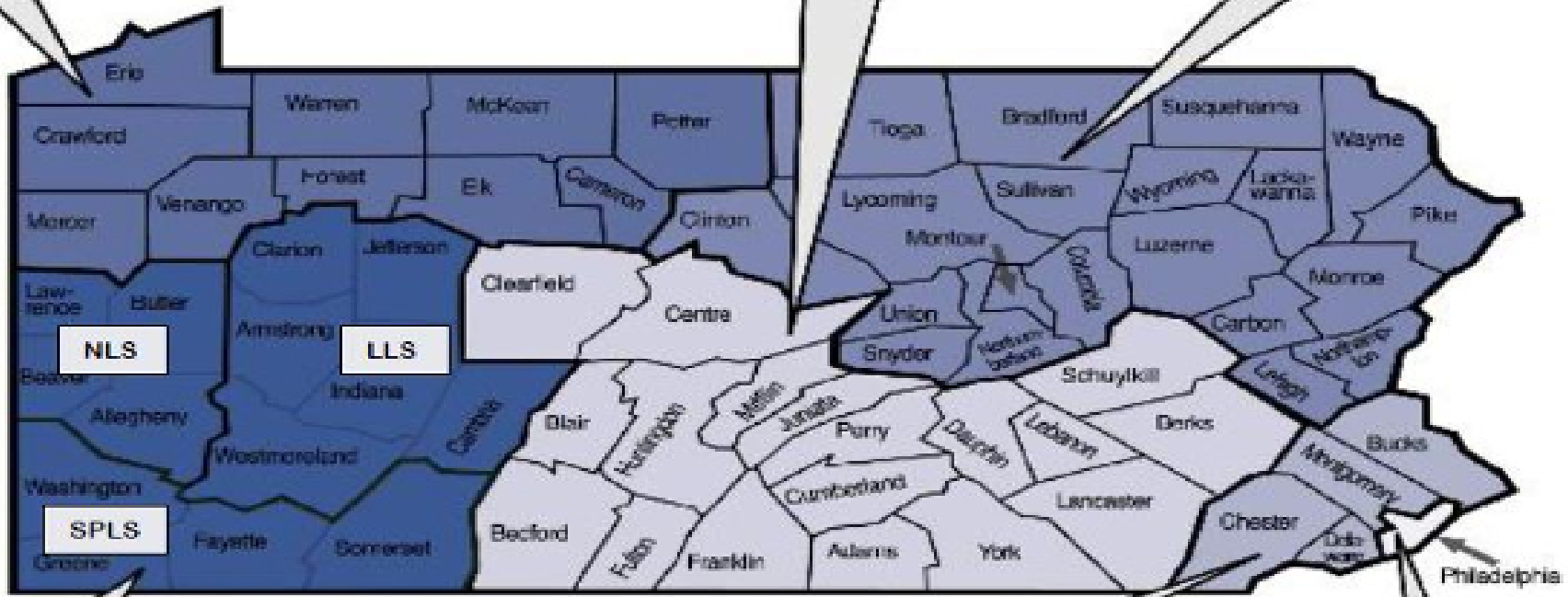
- Custody
- Eviction
- Foreclosure / Homeownership
- Public Benefits
- Consumer Rights / Consumer Credit
- Bankruptcy

Eligibility for services varies, but typically requires household income at or below 125% of the Federal Poverty Level – sometimes higher for special programs or projects.

Northwestern Legal Services

MidPenn Legal Services

North Penn Legal Services



Southwestern Consortium

- o Neighborhood Legal Services (NLS)
- o Southwestern Pennsylvania Legal Services (SPLS)
- o Laurel Legal Services (LLS)

Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania

Philadelphia Region

- o Community Legal Services (CLS)
- o Philadelphia Legal Assistance (PLA)*

Specialized Program

- o Community Justice Project (CJP)
- o Justice at Work (JaW)
- o Pennsylvania Health Law Project (PHLP)
- o Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project (PILP)
- o Pennsylvania Utility Law Project (PULP)
- o Regional Housing Legal Services (RHLS)

*Non-PLAN, Inc. Funded Program

Specialty Legal Services Programs

- **Pennsylvania Utility Law Project**
 - www.pautilitylawproject.org
 - Utility Access and Affordability
 - Energy, Water / Wastewater / Telecommunications
- **Pennsylvania Health Law Project**
 - www.phlp.org
 - Medicaid / Medical Assistance
 - Managed and Long Term Care
 - **Statewide Helpline: 800-274-3258**
- **Community Justice Project**
 - <https://www.communityjusticeproject.org/>
 - Class Action / Impact Litigation
 - Housing, Public Benefits, Employment, and Immigration
- **Justice at Work**
 - www.justiceatworklegalaid.org
 - Wage Theft, Labor Trafficking, Workplace Discrimination
 - Immigration, Housing
- **Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project**
 - www.pailp.org
 - Rights of Incarcerated Individuals and their Families
- **Regional Housing Legal Services**
 - www.rhls.org
 - Affordable Multifamily Housing Development
 - Housing Advocacy

Other Pennsylvania Legal Assistance

- **Pro Se Legal Assistance**
 - www.palawhelp.org
 - Provides information on civil legal issues.
- **Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV)**
 - www.pcadv.org/Find-Help
 - Free, confidential, any time, any county in Pennsylvania.
 - Resources and tools for safety planning, economic stability, housing, and other basic needs of victims of domestic violence.
- **SeniorLaw Helpline**
 - www.seniorlawcenter.org
 - 1-877-727-7529

Pennsylvania Utility Law Project

Services

- Legal Representation
 - Consumer Groups
 - Individuals
- Advocacy
- Education and Training
- Supportive Services
- Consultation



Pennsylvania Utility Law Project

Common Issues / Areas of Expertise

- Rate Affordability
- Universal Service Programs
 - Design, Access, Implementation
- Consumer Billing
- Collections and Terminations
- Tenant Utility Access
- Competitive Electric / Gas Suppliers



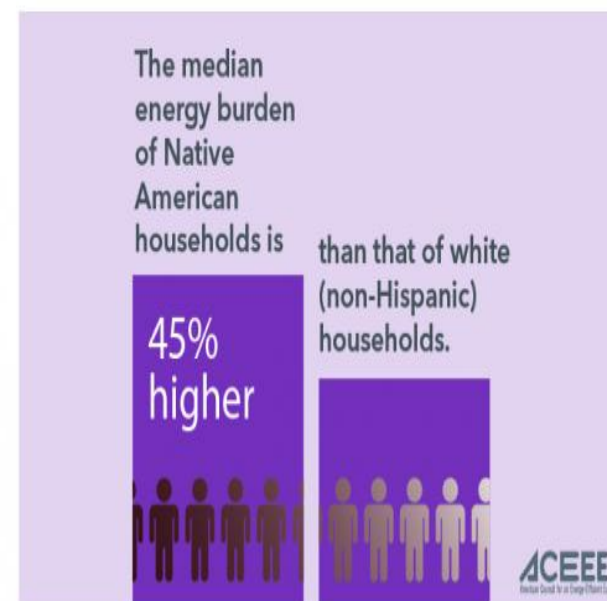
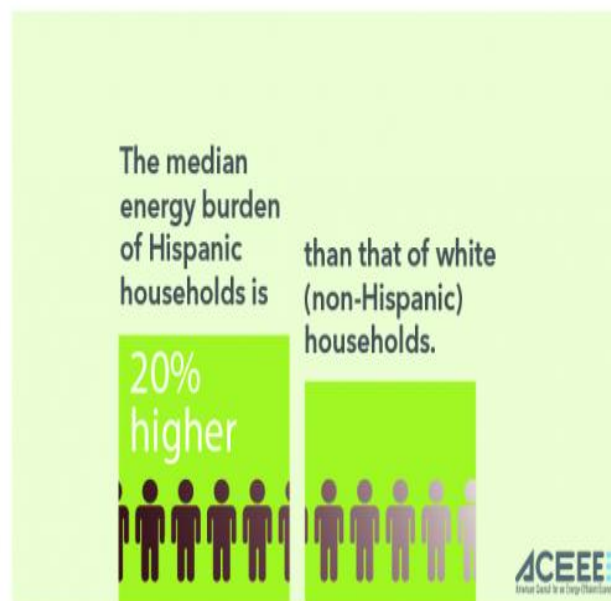
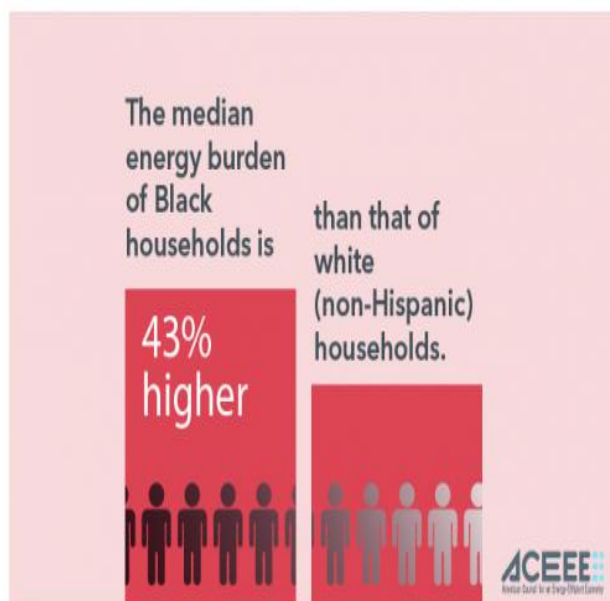
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PENNSYLVANIA
UTILITY LAW PROJECT

Utility Insecurity

Low income households pay as much as 30% of income on home energy costs, compared to 3-4% for middle income households.

Water / wastewater also regularly exceeds 10% of income for low income families.



Utility insecurity causes deep and lasting harm:

- Exposure to unhealthy/unsafe temperatures
- Negative health impacts – especially for Seniors, people with a disability, and young children.
- Inability to properly sanitize
- Lack of clean drinking water
- Interrupts family unity, children removed from home
- Hinders child learning and development
- Long-term impact on consumer credit
- Liens (municipal utilities) encumber property, risk of foreclosure
- Catalyst for eviction, foreclosure, and homelessness
- Difficulty relocating, including ineligibility for public or private housing

Utility moratoria nationwide reduced COVID-19 infection rates by 4.4% and reduced mortality rates by 7.4%.

Source: Duke University, NBER, Working Paper



Contact PULP

Training and Technical Assistance: pulp@pautilitylawproject.org

Emergency Utility Hotline (Statewide): 844-645-2500

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