



The State of Maryland

Executive Department

EXECUTIVE ORDER
01.01.2025.24

Providing Emergency Energy Assistance to Marylanders

- WHEREAS, On October 30, 2025, a State of Emergency was declared via Executive Order 01.01.2025.20 due to the widespread economic disruption and damage to the welfare of Marylanders caused by the prolonged shutdown of federal government operations, pursuant to Title 14 of the Public Safety Article of the Maryland Code;
- WHEREAS, As a result of the prolonged federal government shutdown, now the longest in our nation's history, the federal administration failed to provide funding for the federal fiscal year 2026 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program ("LIHEAP") beginning on October 1, 2025;
- WHEREAS, On average, approximately 13,000 eligible Maryland households receive monthly LIHEAP benefits through the Maryland Energy Assistance Program ("MEAP") to heat their homes and power essential household and medical equipment;
- WHEREAS, Marylanders have already submitted over 90,000 MEAP applications during the first four months of the State's 2026 fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2025, which is nearly 25% higher than the approximately 72,000 applications submitted during the same time period last year, due to increased heating costs and demands;
- WHEREAS, In addition to the impacts of the federal government shutdown, which have exacerbated the needs of Marylanders seeking assistance with utility payments, heating demand and the average MEAP benefit is expected to increase in November as the weather gets colder;

WHEREAS, MEAP need in November is projected to be \$10.1 million beyond the limited carryover funds from the prior federal fiscal year, which has resulted in a pause in the issuance of MEAP benefits since November 3, 2025;

WHEREAS, MEAP is currently using these carryover funds to prioritize Maryland's most vulnerable households, such as those with critically medically fragile individuals, children aged two and under, and individuals 60 and older; and

WHEREAS, It being necessary to protect the public health and welfare of Marylanders, the Moore-Miller Administration will address this crisis by using the Governor's emergency powers to direct State funds to be used to ensure Marylanders have access to MEAP benefits.

NOW THEREFORE, I, WES MOORE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF MARYLAND, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO TITLE 14 OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE, AND IN AN EFFORT TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, HEREBY PROCLAIM THE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE ORDER, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

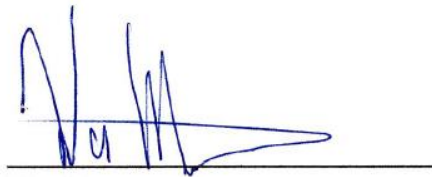
A. Until the State of Emergency is terminated:

1. The provisions of § 9-20B-05(f) of the State Government Article of the Maryland Code, authorizing the permissible uses of the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund ("SEIF"), are hereby suspended for the purposes of providing relief set forth in this Order; and
2. All other laws and regulations that might otherwise restrict a budget amendment transferring funds from the SEIF to specified State agencies are hereby suspended for the purposes of providing relief set forth in this Order.

B. Pursuant to Section A of this Order, the Secretary of Budget and Management shall transfer funds from the SEIF to the Department of Human Services in an amount determined in consultation with the Secretary of Human Services that is necessary to continue the grant remittance necessary to provide MEAP, Gas Arrearage Retirement Assistance, and Winter Crisis benefits to eligible Marylanders.

- C. The Secretary of Human Services shall ensure the funds transferred pursuant to this Order are expended in the most efficient and expeditious manner.
- D. If any provision of this Executive Order or its application to any person, entity, or circumstance is held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, all other provisions or applications of the Executive Order shall remain in effect to the extent possible without the invalid provision or application. To achieve this purpose, the provisions of this Executive Order are severable.

GIVEN Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland, in the City of Largo, this 7th Day of November 2025.



Wes Moore
Governor

ATTEST:



Susan C. Lee
Secretary of State

