



**Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity**
JB Pritzker, Governor

**Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) Steering Committee
Minutes of Meeting Held on January 16, 2020**

Attendance in Springfield

Deirdre Coughlin, Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO); Aaron DeWeese, DCEO; Joan Howard, ICC; Angela Lee, DCEO; Leslie Ann Lesko, DCEO; Ben Moore, DCEO; Marie McLean Mueller, DCEO; Kurt Verduin, DCEO; David Wortman, DCEO

Attendance in Chicago

Mionia Booker, CEDA; Maria Gallardo, DCEO; Abigail Miner, Office of the Attorney General; Kimberly Roberts, CEDA

Attendance via Telephone

Aimee English, Citizens Utility Board; Abby Helms, Madison County Jennifer Marten, Nicor Gas; Kathy Walk, CEFS; Staci Wilson, IL Municipal Electric Agency; Anthony White, Ameren IL

Call to Order

David Wortman called the meeting to order with introductions.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for October 10, 2019 were approved. The motion to approve the minutes was done by Marie Mueller and seconded by Joan Howard.

Program Update

Leslie Ann Lesko gave an update of the program. She indicated a total of \$26.1 million is annually obligated on behalf of 26,919 customers enrolled in PIPP. The average PIPP benefit is \$969. A breakdown of the total enrolled households per Local Administering Agency (LAA) was provided via email. The average benefit last year was \$1,054. Last year, we were obligating a total of \$25.2 million annually on behalf of 23,906 customers enrolled in PIPP during this time of the year.

PIPP Enrollment Period End Date

Leslie Ann stated the PIPP new enrollment end date was December 31, 2019. Starting January 1, any new applicant will be offered the traditional DVP benefit. Some of the agencies were given an extension to process these new applications in a final status in STARS.

HEAT Act-PIPP and Nicor Gas and Peoples Gas Customer Choice Programs

Maria Gallardo discussed that on November 14 and December 11, 2019 OCA participated on conference calls with Nicor Gas, Peoples Gas and the ICC to discuss the provision of the HEAT Act related to suppliers being allowed to apply to the ICC to offer a savings guarantee plan to recipients of LIHEAP or PIPP beginning January 1, 2020.

After several discussions, we agreed that the suppliers will have to follow the same requirements that the utilities follow, such as: budget bills, arrearage credits, do annual true-ups, sign vendor agreements and real time communication with STARS and have ACH Debit capabilities.

DCEO feels we have all these requirements documented already in our PIPP portion of the 2020 Energy Assistance Procedures Manual and in the event these suppliers file for a savings guarantee plan and are approved by the ICC, the PIPP Steering Committee will have to convene and discuss system changes that the gas utilities, DCEO and these suppliers will have to make.

Aimee English asked whether any gas or electric supplier had filed a savings guarantee plan. Joan Howard indicated that the ICC has not received any filling yet.

Maria explained that the suppliers data is available in STARS at the PIPP enrollment and during the Budget Bill Detail Change (BBDC)- supplier switch.

Other Business

It was asked when will the meeting concerning the 2021 PIPP program approach will be held. David said that the plan is to discuss during the April meeting

Meeting Schedule

The next meeting is scheduled on April 16, 2020.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.