# COVID Energy Assistance Needs and Resources

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# Who We Are

#### VISION

All Oregonians have the opportunity to pursue prosperity and live free from poverty.

#### MISSION

We provide stable and affordable housing and engage leaders to develop integrated statewide policy that addresses poverty and provides opportunity for Oregonians.





Working together to serve individuals, families and communities throughout Oregon

### **Our Partners and Program Delivery**



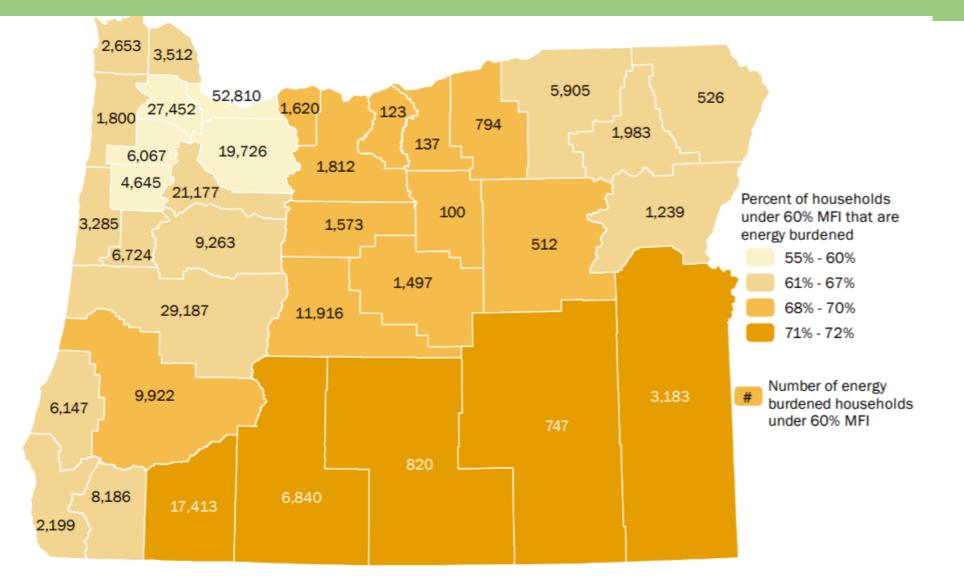
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### Energy Burden Pre-COVID

<u>See</u> additional data on <u>energy</u> burden





# Existing State and Federal Resources for Energy Bill Payment Assistance

### Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Eligibility:	Funding source:	Funding level	Households
Statewide	Federal, US Department of	2018 FY:	Served:
	Health and Human Services	\$35 million	56,136*

### Oregon Energy Assistance Program (OEAP)

Eligibility:	Funding source:	Funding level	Households
PGE & Pacific Power	State, PGE & Pacific	2018 FY:	Served:
service territory	Power customers	\$20 million	33,909*



We are only able to serve less than 20% of those eligible due to funding constraints.

# Flexibility for Energy Assistance Programs

- Relaxed signature requirements
- Increased crisis assistance caps
- Reduced documentation requirements if clients are unable to scan/take photos of documents
  - Income documents
  - Social Security documents
  - Physical utility bills



### **Additional Federal Resources**

The <u>Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security</u> (<u>CARES</u>) <u>Act</u> was passed by Congress in March.

CARES Act resources mean an additional \$9.5 million statewide for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).



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### **Unmet Need**

- Average household energy burden is \$631/year
- Highest unemployment in the state's history
- Early data shows low income households are falling behind on energy bills



Additional federal assistance may be coming



Questions?

#### <u>Contact:</u>

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