

AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT (“*Agreement*”) is made and entered into as of this 5th day of October, 2020, but effective as provided herein, by and between Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc., (“*Utility*”), a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and COMMUNITY ACTION KENTUCKY, INC. (“*CAK*”), a nonprofit corporation organized and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky (each a “*Party*” and collectively “*Parties*”).

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, by Order dated May 4, 2020 (as it may be amended or superseded the “*Order*”) by the Kentucky Public Service Commission (the “*Commission*”) in Case No. 2019-00366, *In the Matter of: Electronic Investigation of Home Energy Assistance Programs Offered by Investor-Owned Utilities Pursuant to KRS 278.285(4)*, the Commission set forth certain parameters for low-income home energy assistance (“*HEA*”) programs to assist households with low income offered by jurisdictional utilities in Kentucky and determined that HEA programs should be administered by a single administering agency that provides back-office functions and subcontracts front-office functions to community level nonprofit organizations, and

WHEREAS, CAK represents and supports twenty-three (23) community-level, non-profit community action agencies (collectively, the “*CAAs*”) across the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and

WHEREAS, in the Order, the Commission requested that CAK serve as the single administering agency for all HEA programs under the Commission’s jurisdiction, and, on June 2, 2020, CAK accepted the Commission’s invitation;

WHEREAS, CAK and Utility are entering into this Agreement to implement the requirements set forth in the Order;

WHEREAS, CAK, itself and through arrangements with community-level, non-profit organizations such as the CAAs (collectively, “*Operating Organizations*”), is willing to provide the services described herein to assist Utility in implementing the HEA programs described on **Exhibit A** (as that Exhibit A may be amended from time-to-time) (“*Programs*”) to eligible residential customers of the Utility; and

WHEREAS, CAK itself and through arrangements with Operating Organizations will perform the back-office and front-office functions for the HEA program applications and enrollments services as further described in this Agreement and on and subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement (collectively, the “*Program Administrative Services*”).;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual obligations of the Parties hereto, each of them does hereby covenant and agree as follows:

I. DEFINITIONS

Capitalized terms shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the text of this Agreement including as defined in Exhibit B under the heading “*HEA Program Terminology*”.

II. TERM OF AGREEMENT

A. This Agreement shall commence on the Effective Date and terminate on September 30, 2021_____; *provided, however*, this Agreement shall automatically continue for successive one-year terms beginning on _October 1_____ of each successive year unless either Party terminates in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.

B. Either Party may terminate this Agreement without cause by giving the other Party notice of its intention to terminate this Agreement no fewer than ninety (90) days prior to the end of any Program Year. In such case, this Agreement will terminate at the end of such Program Year. As used in this Agreement, the term “Program Year” shall mean October 1 of one calendar year to September 30 of the following calendar year, and each of the Programs shall have the same Program Year. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Parties recognize that the continuation of the Programs and of this Agreement are subject to orders of the Commission. Termination of this Agreement shall not relieve either Party of its obligation to continue to perform its duties under this Agreement applicable to the final Program Year, including without limitation, CAK’s submission of any audits required by Utility, and compensation by Utility to CAK pursuant to the terms of this Agreement for services performed in connection with the final Program Year.

C. Nothing in this Agreement shall authorize Utility to collect charges from residential customers to fund the Programs beyond the date of its authority to do so under applicable orders of the Commission and the expiration of Utility’s duly filed tariffs applicable to the Programs.

III. PROGRAM FUNDING & BUDGET

A. **Exhibit A** (as it may be amended or replaced from time-to-time and subject to any necessary approval of the Commission) identifies the Programs of Utility that are subject to this Agreement and, will be incorporated herein by reference.

B. As identified in **Exhibit A** (as it may be amended or replaced from time-to-time and subject to any necessary approval of the Commission), Utility will fund certain of the Programs through the per-meter surcharge collected from residential customers (“*Customer Charge*”) as described in **Exhibit A**. **Exhibit A** identifies any energy cost assistance programs funded through voluntary customer donations and implemented pursuant to KRS 278.287 (“*Statutory Program*”) offered by Utility and subject to this Agreement.

C. **Exhibit A** identifies any Programs subject to this Agreement which are wholly funded by the Utility and any contributions by the Utility to a Program funded by Customer Charges or to a Statutory Program.

D. At least 60 days prior to the beginning of a Program Year, Utility will submit to CAK a

completed version of Exhibit A for each Program (all of which together shall collectively be **Exhibit A**) with all requested information, including an estimate of the funds Utility anticipates will be collected and allocated to each such Program (the “**Funding Estimates**”). For the Program Year September 1, 2020 to October 1, 2021 (the “**Initial Year**”), Utility shall submit Exhibit A to CAK upon execution of this Agreement.

E. Using the Funding Estimates and such other information as it may deem appropriate, CAK will prepare and present to Utility a budget for CAK’s provision of Program Administrative Services for the upcoming Program Year (the “**Proposed Budgets**”). Utility shall promptly provide CAK such information as it may reasonably request for the preparation of the Proposed Budgets. Based on the Proposed Budgets, Utility and CAK will cooperate in the preparation of a mutually-agreeable final budget for the upcoming Program Year for each of the Programs.

F. Except in the case of the Initial Year, CAK will provide the Proposed Budgets to Utility in sufficient time for Utility to file applications for any necessary approvals by the Commission, and at least 30 days before the beginning of each Program Year. For the Initial Year, CAK shall provide the Proposed Budgets to Utility on or before October 30~~th~~, 2020.

G. Utility shall be responsible for obtaining any necessary approval of the Commission for **Exhibit A** and the Proposed Budgets, and in the absence of same, CAK shall have no obligations under this Agreement with regard to the Programs subject to such **Exhibit A** or such Proposed Budget.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES, ALLOWABLE COSTS AND INVOICING

A. CAK shall be entitled to recover the actual, verifiable costs of providing the Program Administrative Services, which shall include back-office and front-office services related to the operation of the Programs, Program Oversight, and Reporting Requirements (all as further described in this Agreement and accompanying Exhibits), as well as reasonable legal fees directly related to the Program Administration Services, and all new or increased information technology costs CAK may incur to comply with the terms of this Agreement with regard to the Programs and Program Administration Services (“**Program IT Costs**”) (all collectively “**Program Costs**”).

B. The total amount of Program Costs payable to CAK under this Agreement for all Program Years to which this Agreement may apply will not exceed, in total, ten percent (10%) of the total Program funds expended (the “**Program Cost Ceiling**”); *notwithstanding the foregoing*, Utility agrees to fully compensate CAK for the Program IT Costs in any Program Year that exceed the Program Cost Ceiling, provided that i) such costs are reasonable and necessary to implement changes for compliance with applicable law or with new data exchange requirements not set forth in this Agreement, and ii) CAK provides Utility a detailed, good faith estimate of such costs in writing before they are incurred, provides Utility a sufficient amount of time to review such costs, and refrains from incurring such costs until Utility responds in writing. CAK shall be responsible for distribution of payments due to the participating local community action agencies for Program Slots filled.

C. Utility and CAK may agree to special projects, work beyond the Program Administration Activities or to Program Costs that exceed the Program Cost Ceiling, such as HEA program effectiveness studies or data compilations beyond what is required by the Order (“**Special**

Projects”), provided that: i) CAK has provided to Utility an estimate of the costs reasonable and necessary to perform Special Projects, and ii) Utility has agreed to reimburse CAK for such estimated costs, subject to any necessary regulatory approvals.

D. All funds collected for the Programs, if unused in any Program Year will “roll-over” and be available for use in subsequent Program Years of the relevant Program. If the Program Costs for any Program Year should exceed the Program Cost Ceiling in that Program Year (“*Excess Costs*”), CAK may be paid those Excess Costs from such “roll-over” funds.

E. CAK will track its Program Costs and prepare and provide to Utility on a monthly basis reports of Program Costs to date and a comparison of Program Costs to the budget for the applicable period (“*Monthly Costs Report*”). CAK shall provide Utility with a written explanation for any variance in Program Costs that are 10% or greater than budget.

F. CAK shall submit invoices to Utility for CAK’s Program Costs at such intervals and in such manner as the Parties may agree throughout the Program Year, but in no event more frequently than on a monthly basis. Utility shall pay such invoices within 30 days after its receipt of same. CAK will provide such documentation of its Program Costs reflected in an invoice as Utility may reasonably request.

G. CAK is responsible for compensating the Operating Organizations. ^{H.} CAK agrees to maintain, during the term of this Agreement and for four years following its termination, complete and accurate records of all receipts and disbursements related to its Program Costs.

V. OPERATION OF THE PROGRAMS

The Programs identified by the Utility on **Exhibit A** (as it may be amended or replaced from time-to-time and subject to any necessary approval of the Commission) shall be operated as set forth in the portions of **Exhibit B** relevant to such Program.

VI. OUTREACH & PROGRAM REVIEW

The Parties, in coordination with the Operating Organizations, shall develop a mutually-agreeable marketing strategy for each Program (each a “*Marketing Strategy*”). Once agreed-upon by the Parties, Utility shall obtain all necessary Commission review and approval of each Marketing Strategy.

VII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

A. The Parties will compile the following data to be utilized in the monthly and annual reports required by the Commission’s Order:

i. CAK will compile the data for the Program Administration Services data set forth in Appendix A of the Order related to Program Applications, Enrollments, Denials and utility customer breakout by county (“*CAK HEA Data*”).

ii. Utility will compile the data set forth in Appendix B of the Order related to

credits provided to Program Participants, funded related items and expenditures (“*Utility HEA Data*”).

B. The Parties periodically will reconcile their respective records relating to Program Participants and the benefits received by those Program Participants.

C. CAK shall provide Utility with the CAK HEA Data on the 15th of each calendar month reflecting the CAK HEA Data current as of the end of the prior calendar month (“*Monthly HEA Report*”)

D. Appendix B of the Order requires the Parties to jointly file an annual report with the Commission no later than the date for such report established by the Commission (“*Annual HEA Report*”) or as otherwise prescribed by the Commission to ensure report includes all administered benefits. Utility shall be responsible for creating the Annual HEA Report by extracting requisite data from the previously supplied Monthly HEA Reports and combining it with Utility HEA Data. CAK agrees to provide in a timely manner all data in its possession which is not in the Utility’s possession that is needed for the Annual HEA Report, exclusive of any information that would be deemed a Special Project as described above. Utility shall timely file the Annual HEA Report with the Commission on behalf of the Parties.

VIII. PROGRAM OVERSIGHT/AUDIT/EVALUATION

A. CAK will provide oversight for the Programs which will include monitoring both the implementation and ongoing operation of the Programs, monitoring the data collected with regard to the Programs, and compiling and preparing such reports as are required herein or by order of the Commission (“*Program Oversight*”).

B. Utility shall have the right, at any reasonable time, to inspect and audit the records maintained by CAK relating to Program Oversight for the current Program Year and the four preceding Program Years at Utility’s sole cost either through Utility’s own authorized representatives or through any public accounting firm selected by Utility.

C. CAK’s financial records will be audited annually at CAK’s expense by an independent certified public accountant in accordance with existing federal audit requirements. The audit will include a detailed accounting of all expenses of CAK associated with the Programs. CAK shall provide the audit to Utility, which may file it with the Commission if necessary or desired.

D. CAK agrees to provide Utility with all information within CAK’s possession that is pertinent to the Program Oversight, exclusive of any information that would be deemed a Special Project as described above.

IX. REGULATORY APPROVALS

Approval by the Commission of this Agreement and the details of the Programs is required. As a result, the Parties’ rights and obligations under this Agreement, and the effectiveness of this Agreement, are expressly contingent upon obtaining and maintaining such approval. The date on

which the Commission approves this Agreement will be the “Effective Date.” To the extent that there may be, or later arise, a conflict between this Agreement and any requirement or order of the Commission, the Commission’s requirement or order shall be controlling. CAK and Utility agree to cooperate in obtaining and maintaining all necessary Commission approvals for the Programs.

X. DEFAULT AND REMEDIES

A. Each of the following events or occurrences shall constitute an “Event of Default” under this Agreement:

i. A Parties’ insolvency or declaration of bankruptcy;

ii. A failure by a Party to comply with any substantive obligation attributed to it pursuant to this Agreement, including without limitation:

1. Failure by CAK to provide in a timely manner any financial or progress reports required of it by this Agreement; or

2. Failure by CAK to provide a reasonable explanation for any substantial variance in the Program Costs as compared to the applicable budget;

3. Failure by Utility to timely provide the information required from it pursuant to this Agreement; and

4. Failure by Utility to pay CAK’s invoices for Program Costs as provided herein.

iii. Disclosure or discovery that the covenants and representations made by CAK or Utility requiring the fulfillment of any requirement covered under this Agreement or any other document submitted in support of this Agreement is, was, or shall be false or misleading in any material respect.

B. Notwithstanding any provisions in this Agreement to the contrary, no Event of Default shall be the basis of any claim or action unless and until the non-defaulting Party has provided the alleged defaulting party a written notice detailing the specific claimed Event(s) of Default, and the alleged defaulting party has not cured, or undertaken significant and continuing efforts to cure the alleged default within twenty (20) days of its receipt of such notice, provided that the alleged default is cured within sixty (60) days following such notice. In the absence of such cure or a legitimate dispute as to the existence of the alleged the default, the non-defaulting Party shall have the right, at its election, to suspend its performance under this Agreement until such cure is completed or the dispute is resolved, or to terminate this Agreement and pursue any other remedies available to it.

C. Neither Party shall be liable to the other for any incidental, indirect, special, punitive, or consequential damages.

XI. FORCE MAJEURE.

A. Notwithstanding any provision in this Agreement to the contrary, except for any obligation to pay money due for obligations incurred prior to the contract's termination, each Party will be excused from performance under this Agreement during the period and to the extent that such Party is unable to perform by reason of any cause beyond the control of that Party, including, but not limited to, fire, storm, drought, flood, earthquake, war, terrorism, insurrection, power failure, quarantine, fuel shortage, the application or enforcement of any law, government declaration of emergency, or the inability or delay of a Party to acquire, after the exercise of due diligence and commercially reasonable efforts under the circumstances, any necessary materials, supplies, permits, permissions and governmental actions (a "*Force Majeure Event*"). In the case of CAK, the failure of an Operating Organization to perform its obligations to CAK related to the Programs, which CAK in the exercise of reasonable diligence could not prevent, will be a Force Majeure Event.

B. The Party asserting an excuse of performance due to the occurrence of Force Majeure Event shall give notice of same to the non-claiming Party, including a description of the Force Majeure Event, a good faith estimate of the anticipated duration of the Force Majeure Event and a description of the claiming Party's efforts, if any, to terminate the Force Majeure Event or to limit its effects on the claiming Party's performance of this Agreement.

XII. CONFIDENTIALITY

A. As used in this Agreement, "Confidential Information" means any information obtained or developed by the Parties about individual applicants and participants under the Program ("*Program Applicants*") and that is disclosed by one Party to the other Party, whether before or during the term of this Agreement, including but not limited to nonpublic, individually identifiable personal information where the privacy or security of such information is subject to a local, state or federal law governing the privacy or security of such information, and information that is derived from the Confidential Information (for example through testing, analysis, processing, nonpublic reporting).

B. Except as otherwise expressly permitted in writing by a Party's authorized representative, each of the Parties agrees to protect and maintain as confidential all Confidential Information obtained from another party and shall not:

- i. use such Confidential Information received from another Party for any purpose other than in connection with the implementation, operation, evaluation, and oversight of the Program;
- ii. disseminate or use Confidential Information for any purpose beyond the limited purpose in subparagraph (i) above;
- iii. disclose, reveal or otherwise provide access to Confidential Information to any person or entity other than a Party's or its affiliates' employees, directors, officers, agents and consultants who (i) have a need to know to further the purpose of this Agreement; (ii) have been advised of the information's confidential status; and (iii) are subject to legally binding

obligations of confidentiality as to such information no less restrictive than those contained in this Agreement; provided, however, that the Party who received it shall at all times be fully responsible to the Party who disclosed it for the compliance by such persons and entities with this Agreement; or

iv. give, sell, or otherwise provide or make available Confidential Information to any other individual, firm, partnership, corporation, or agency not a party to this Agreement.

C. The Parties understand and agree that to the extent Confidential Information must be used or reflected in Utility's billing or accounting systems for purposes of the Programs or Utility's routine operations, Utility's usual restrictions on dissemination and availability of customer information shall be sufficient for purposes of satisfying its obligations under this Agreement with respect to Confidential Information.

D. All anecdotal reports containing or using Confidential Information shall use fictitious names, addresses, employers, and other identifiers.

E. Nothing herein shall limit the use of Confidential Information as necessary to implement, document, evaluate, or monitor the Programs or to comply with any court or regulatory agency proceeding or filing to which they may be subject. To the extent Confidential Information is included in any such proceeding or filing, however, the Parties agree to make reasonable efforts to protect its confidentiality.

XIII. INSURANCE

CAK shall procure and maintain, and CAK shall require that Operating Organizations taking applications for the Programs procure and maintain, the following insurance coverage throughout the term of this Agreement:

A. Commercial general liability insurance covering claims of bodily injury, property damage and professional liability insurance and/or Errors and Omissions insurance in an amount not less than \$500,000 per claim or per occurrence.

B. The commercial general liability policy shall include Utility and its officers, directors, and employees as additional named insureds and shall include a waiver of subrogation in favor of the additional insureds with respect to Utility's liability arising out of CAK's operations.

C. The insurance required by this Paragraph is in addition to and separate from any other obligations contained in the Agreement. If any of the policies indicated above are placed on a "claims-made" basis, such coverage shall be maintained for a period of not less than five years following the termination of this Agreement and CAK shall have the right to recover a portion of the premiums as part of the Program Costs. The above-referenced limit requirements may be met by any combination of umbrella or excess and primary policies so long as the total limit of insurance requirement is met. The required coverages referred to herein shall in no way affect, nor are they intended as a limitation of, CAK's liability with respect to its performance under this Agreement; notwithstanding the

foregoing, CAK shall not be liable to Utility for any claim or occurrence covered by insurance but for Utility's failure to provide timely notification of such claim or occurrence.

XIV. INDEMNIFICATION

To the extent permitted by law, each Party shall indemnify, and save the other harmless from and against any liabilities, costs, and claims, including judgments rendered against, and fines and penalties imposed upon, such Party, with reasonable attorney's fees and all other costs of litigation (collectively, "*Claims*"), to the extent, and only to the extent, such Liabilities result from the gross negligence or willful misconduct of the indemnifying Party, its employees, agents, or subcontractors, in connection with the performance of this Agreement, and provided the claim for indemnification for Claims is asserted within the statute of limitations applicable to the Claims. Any indemnification of a Party shall to the same extent apply to such Party's directors, officers, employees, agents, and affiliated companies (including any joint ventures of which the indemnified Party or any of its affiliates are a member and the other members of such joint ventures), and the directors, officers, employees and agents thereof.

XV. GOVERNING LAW AND CONSTRUCTION OF AGREEMENT

The Parties' rights and obligations under this Agreement and the validity and construction of the Agreement shall be interpreted and enforced in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky without regard to any conflicts of laws or other doctrines that could result in the application of the law of another jurisdiction. This Agreement has been negotiated by both Parties, and it shall not be interpreted or construed for or against Utility or CAK. The words "includes" or "including" shall be understood as though they were followed in each case by the words "without limitation."

XVI. ENTIRE AGREEMENT

This Agreement, its Exhibits, and any documents referred to herein are incorporated herein and are a part of this Agreement. This Agreement contains all the terms, conditions and promises applicable to the subject matter of this Agreement. No modification or waiver of this Agreement, or any provision thereof, shall be valid or binding unless it is in writing and executed by both of the Parties. No waiver by either Party of any default or breach of any term or provision of this Agreement shall be construed as a waiver of any succeeding default or breach of the same or another term or provision of the Agreement.

XVII. NO OTHER BENEFICIARIES

This Agreement is solely between CAK and Utility, and nothing in this Agreement, or the Programs shall be construed as creating any rights or claims in any third party.

XVIII. MISCELLANEOUS

All of the provisions of this Agreement which expressly extend beyond the expiration or

termination of this Agreement, including insurance obligations, indemnification obligations, confidentiality obligations, and limitations of liability, shall survive expiration or termination of this Agreement and remain in full force and effect in accordance with the terms of such provisions. If any provision of the Agreement is held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions of the Agreement. Headings are provided for the convenience of the Parties and shall not affect the interpretation of any provision of this Agreement. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, which counterparts taken together shall constitute the executed Agreement.


[Signatures appear on next page. This space is intentionally blank.]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Agreement as of the date set forth above, but effective as provided herein.

COLUMBIA GAS OF KENTUCKY, INC.

COMMUNITY ACTION KENTUCKY, INC.

By: Kimra H. Cole
Kimra H. Cole

By:  10/6/2020
Roger McCann

Its: President and COO

Its: Executive Director

Exhibit A – Program Funding and Designation of Program(s) Utility will Offer

Utility Program Funding

Customer Charge on Residential Bills:

Customer Charge per meter:	\$ <u>0.30</u>
Estimated Funding:	\$ <u>*440,000</u>

A description of current and future shareholder funding levels & other non-residential donations allocated to the HEA Program(s): Shareholder contribution funding level is \$200,000 per program year as set forth in Case 2016-00162.

Total Funding for the Program Year Shown on Page 3 is calculated as:

Funding by Source:	Customer Charge	\$440,000
	Shareholder Funds	\$200,000
	<u>2019-2020 Credits</u>	<u>\$167,000</u>
	Sum	\$807,000
	Less Administrative Cost Allowance (10%*\$807,000)	<u>\$ 80,700</u>
	Total Funding on page 3	\$726,300

Utility: Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc Program Year: 2020-2021

Programs Utility Will Offer

*Please complete a copy of this form for **each** HEA Program that Utility will offer during the Program Year.*

Program Name: Energy Assistance Program (EAP)

Program Type: Slot/Subsidy Options: Slot/Subsidy; Crisis

Utility Program Contacts:

Contact Information

Primary Name: Susie L. Durr, Manager Regulatory Affairs

Email: sdurr@nisource.com **Phone:** (859) 361-9808 cell (859) 288-0256 office

Invoices should be submitted to: Megan Nichols, Manager Customer Programs

Email: mnichols@nisource.com **Phone:** (859) 221-6079 cell (859) 288-6337 office

Reports should be submitted to the following email(s): mnichols@nisource.com, sdurr@nisource.com

Eligibility:

Maximum allowable Income (Percentage of Poverty): 200% FPG

Utility-Verified Eligibility Requirements: Utility will verify that the customer’s account does not:

1. Have another active payment plan in effect
2. Have more than one account per customer name

Crisis Situation (for Crisis Style): Columbia does not operate a Crisis HEA Program

Last Day to enroll client to receive the first month’s benefit: The applicant’s information must be submitted and accepted via an electronic enrollment file no later than the 23rd of each enrollment month (December, January and February).

Benefit Types & Dates:

Please list the benefit types (e.g. electric, natural gas, electric (non-heating),...) available for this component, the Benefit Amount the client can receive (e.g., \$x / month; up to \$x max; 1 time \$x benefit) and the months the program/benefit is available (e.g., 7 months – Jan Feb Mar April July Aug Sep; 4 months - Jan Feb Mar April; Start to End Date).

For example:

- Crisis style program for Electric benefits up to \$100 from Jan 1 to April 1
- Subsidy/slot style program for Electric and Natural Gas benefits (\$80 and \$50 respectively) for the months of Jan, Feb, Mar, April, July, Aug and Sept

Benefit Type	Benefit Amount	Timeframe (Benefit Months Or Application Period)
<u>Subsidy/Slot- Natural Gas Heating</u>	<u>\$200 in each month</u>	<u>Jan, Feb, March</u>

Columbia Gas
Program Year 20-21
Slot Allocations By County

Exhibit A Attachment
County List

<u>County</u>	<u>Slot Allocation *</u>
Bath	0
Bourbon	26
Boyd	86
Bracken	1
Carter	0
Clark	55
Clay	0
Estill	13
Fayette	661
Floyd	7
Franklin	102
Greenup	61
Harrison	15
Jessamine	10
Johnson	0
Knott	2
Lawrence	9
Lee	0
Letcher	0
Lewis	1
Madison	5
Martin	6
Mason	22
Montgomery	23
Nicholas	0
Owsley	0
Pike	5
Robertson	0
Scott	54
Woodford	45
<u>Total</u>	<u>1,210</u>

Exhibit B – HEA Program Operations and HEA Program Terminology

Agreement Between Utility and Community Action Kentucky, Inc.

HEA Program Operations

Note: The term “program” herein means HEA program unless the context otherwise requires a different meaning. See Exhibit B-1 for Common HEA Terminology.

- 1. Application Process (Applicable to all Programs)** – Any person who inquires shall be informed of the eligibility requirements and the rights and obligations of applicants in the program
 - a. Application Period** - Each HEA program has its own application process. Please see program specific Application Period
 - b. Screening, Eligibility Determination and Participant Identification.**
 - i. Operating Organizations shall take an initial screening application from all persons seeking to participate in the HEA programs and shall evaluate the information to make a preliminary determination whether applicant qualifies for the program. This includes:**
 1. Ensure all required information has been provided by the applicant to determine if the household is eligible.
 - a. Determine that the household is responsible for home energy costs for an eligible energy type for the utility that they are applying for. If applicable, applicant will self-declare if the energy type is primary or secondary for heating.
 - b. The household does not exceed the income threshold for HEA program eligibility as defined in Exhibit A. The income threshold is based on the percentage of the federal poverty guidelines as of the start of the program year.
 - i. Income documentation and calculations will follow the LIHEAP program rules.**
 - c. Meet other program specific eligibility requirements. See program specific Eligibility Requirements
 2. Obtain release/waiver from the applicant in the form of Exhibit C. Alternate methods of collecting the release/waiver will be accepted to accommodate applicants as needed.
 - ii. Notify Utility of Eligible Clients**
 1. Prioritization criteria will be used to determine whether an eligible applicant will be submitted to the utility.
 - a. There will be no carryover or preference for past HEA program participants
 - b. Clients will be submitted to the Utility based on their prioritization using a predefined format (See program specific Utility Notification Requirements)
 - c. See program Specific Client Prioritization for additional criteria.
 - iii. Utility shall verify applications submitted to ensure the application meets the utility related eligibility requirements. This includes:**

1. Determine that the applicant meets the following requirements:
 - a. Be an Active Residential Customer of Utility
 - b. Provide Utility with access for monthly meter readings;
 - c. Meet other program specific Utility Eligibility Requirements
- iv. Utility shall notify Operating Organization with the disposition (e.g. did the client get enrolled, receive a benefit, etc.)
 1. See program specific Disposition Notification Requirements
- v. Utility will apply the benefit(s) in the form of a credit to the customer's account in accordance with the following:
 1. Participant's benefits as defined in the program specific Program Benefits Section
 2. Utility will respond to general billing questions from Program participants, including inquiries regarding the details of the application of credits to their Utility bills pursuant to the Programs.
- vi. Termination of Services
 1. See program specific Termination of Services
- c. **Compliance, Monitoring and Reporting**
 - i. Keep appropriate records. The program is subject to monitoring by CAK, Utility, Management Auditor, or designee. This includes:
 1. The implementation and ongoing operation of the program,
 2. The data collected and reported for the program
2. **Specific Program Type Rules:** Utility will identify the type of program(s) that will be operated as part of Exhibit A. Below are the program specific rules (in addition to generic rules described in Item 2 above) that will apply depending on the program type.
 - a. **Subsidy/Slot Style Program Type:**
 - i. **Overview:** Utility customers (households) apply for the program, and if they meet the eligibility criteria they are approved for placement on a waitlist. The households are ranked with a prioritization system. Households are then selected from the waitlist based on their priority ranking and submitted to the utility. The utility will evaluate the customer further and either accept the household for enrollment into a slot or reject them. Once accepted into a slot, the utility will credit the customer accounts with a pre-determined dollar amount, over a pre-determined period of time.
 - ii. **Application Period:**
 1. Clients can apply for the program at any time during the program year (10/1 to 9/30 or until no more benefit months are available).
 2. Clients are encouraged to apply during the LIHEAP Subsidy application window, which allows clients to simultaneously apply for the LIHEAP and the HEA programs.
 - iii. **Eligibility Requirements**
 1. No additional program specific requirements
 - iv. **Prioritization Requirements**
 1. Applications will be prioritized by CASTiNET based on the following criteria:

Prioritization occurs on a per county basis and within a county customers with the lowest income receive the highest priority for enrollment.

a. _____

2. All clients that applied prior to the Initial Enrollment Date (as specified in Exhibit A) will be prioritized and considered for the initial enrollment batch submitted to the Utility.
3. After the Initial Enrollment, the waitlist will contain all approved applications that were not previously submitted
4. Applications with the highest priority will be submitted to the utility for enrollment as slots are available for the county/region/benefit type using the Utility Notification Requirements.
 - a. Slots may be moved by CAK after the initial enrollment to ensure maximum utilization of funds.

v. Utility Notification Requirements

1. Utility will be notified via the request file in Exhibit D

vi. Utility-Verified Eligibility Requirements

1. Utility will verify that the customer's account does not:
 - a. Have their service disconnected at the residence for which benefits will be credited
 - b. Reside in a multi-unit single meter building
2. Utility will verify and notify CAK (via the Disposition Notification) of any discrepancies that prevent enrollment of the client.

vii. Disposition Notification Requirements

1. Dispositions will be returned from the Utility via the response file described in Exhibit D

viii. Program Benefits

1. Utility will apply the Benefit Amount based on the Benefit Type for each of the benefit timeframe (months) as specified in Exhibit A
2. Participant's benefits under the Programs shall begin with the participant's first Utility billing cycle following the participant's admission to the Program, provided that such billing cycle falls within a Benefit month, unless otherwise specified.

ix. Termination of Participation.

1. Utility will notify CAK if an enrolled client's service is discontinued, or the enrolled client no longer meets the eligibility requirements, via a removal file (see Exhibit D), and will remove the client from the program.
2. CAK/Operating Organization will notify Utility to remove the client from the program via the request file (see Exhibit D) if they learn that an enrolled client is no longer eligible, or participant chooses to voluntarily withdraw from the program.
3. If the benefit of participant in the Programs is terminated, credits to the participant's Utility account shall terminate the billing month following the date the participant is no longer eligible to participate in the Programs, unless otherwise specified.
4. All clients will be removed at the end of the program.

- a. **Crisis Style Program Type:** A Crisis style utility assistance program provides benefits to customers to resolve a crisis, usually related to a hardship that the customer has experienced. For example, a customer may require assistance to avoid a disconnect, needs help with a past due balance, or needs help to pay their bill as the result of a natural disaster, medical emergency, and/or other hardship.
 - i. **Application Period:**
 - 1. Clients can apply for the program during the Application Period specified in Exhibit A or until funds have been depleted. Client will have a 5 working day pending period to provide additional information.
 - a. Extensions to the 5 working day requirements may be granted if circumstances exist that are out of the client's control and would cause an undue burden to the client. Any extension shall be documented and equally accessible to all clients. Examples that would warrant an extension: natural disaster in the area; office closures that prevents the client from bringing in documentation;
 - ii. **Eligibility Requirements**
 - 1. Client must be in a Crisis Situation as defined in Exhibit A.
 - 2. Must not be disconnected for nonpayment at the time of the application or work with the utility to be reconnected.
 - iii. **Prioritization Requirements**
 - 1. Clients will be served on a first come first serve basis.
 - 2. To achieve maximum utilization of funds, operating agencies may move funds between counties in their service territory and CAK may move funds between operating agencies. Reasonable efforts shall be made to serve clients based on the original allocations to ensure equal access to services in all areas.
 - iv. **Utility Notification Requirements**
 - 1. Operating Organizations will notify Utility using CASTINET Transmittals.
 - v. **Utility-Verified Eligibility Requirements**
 - 1. Utility will verify that the customer's account does not:
 - a. Have their service disconnected at the residence for which benefits will be credited
 - 2. Utility will verify and notify Operating Agency (via the Disposition Notification) of any discrepancies that prevent applying the program benefit.
 - vi. **Disposition Notification Requirements**
 - 1. Utility will return the transmittal with accounts that have credits applied or that have been rejected
 - 2. Operating Organization will update the disposition information in CASTINET.
 - vii. **Program Benefits**
 - 1. Utility will apply the Benefit Amount based on the Benefit Type as specified in Exhibit A.

HEA Program Terminology

(Note: These terms most often do not appear with an initial cap in Exhibit B or other program documents due to the frequency with which these terms are used; nevertheless, unless the context otherwise requires, these terms have the following meanings regardless of the case of the first letter.)

Account Number- the unique identifier associated with a utility account that associates it with a particular service or meter.

Active Customer: At the time of application, the client must have an account with the utility that is open and can accept the program benefits

All-Electric- a Household that uses only electricity for heating and cooling, i.e., the Household does not use propane or Natural Gas for either heating or cooling.

Applicant- a) an individual who applies for services on behalf of a Household or alternatively b) the Household who has applied for services. Applicant and Household may be used interchangeably unless the context otherwise requires.

Approved / Approved Application - an Applicant who is approved after having applied and being determined as *eligible* to participate in an HEA program. To be Approved does not mean that Applicant will receive a benefit. An Approved Applicant is eligible to either be placed into a SLOT when it becomes available or be provided another available benefit. (See definitions of Enrolled and Enrollment.)

Base Load- a Household that uses a fuel source other than electricity for heating. For example, the Household may have a furnace that uses Natural Gas or propane as the heat source.

Client- refers to an individual who seeks help with home energy needs from an Operating Organization.

Customer- refers to an individual who is a utility customer.

Denial / Denied Application- the process of denying an application because the Applicant is ineligible. For example, an Applicant may be above the income level allowed for the HEA program.

Enrolled / Enrollee- a status that indicates a Household's utility account has been assigned to a SLOT, pledge voucher or some other mechanism by which they will receive a benefit.

Enrollment- the process of placing Household into a position where they will receive a benefit, i.e., to be enrolled. An example would be an Applicant that has been placed into a SLOT after having been on a waitlist.

Expired – an Application that is not carried over from one program year to the next. Example: An application may be approved and placed onto a waitlist, but because no SLOT was available, the application "expires" and is purged from the waitlist prior to the new program year.

Household- a individual person or group of people who live together and share a utility service, energy source, water or sewer connection (i.e., utility account). The people in a Household may not necessarily be related.

Individual- a person who lives in a Household. This person may or may not be the Applicant.

Initial Enrollment Date – The Date is determined by taking the cutoff date provided by the utilities to ensure the first month’s credit can be applied to the client’s account and an adequate number of days prior to ensure timely file exchanges.

Management Auditor – a organization selected by the Commission to perform a management audit.

Participant- a Household who a) has been Enrolled and b) is receiving or has received a program benefit. A Household whose utility account has been assigned to a SLOT, pledge voucher or other benefit mechanism. Same as Enrolled or Enrollee.

Pending Application- an Application that has started, but has not been completed. This may occur if the Applicant has not provided adequate eligibility documentation, utility account information or similar. Applications will remain in Pending status until either Approved or the Pending Application Period has expired.

Pending Application Period- the time period that an Applicant’s Application may remain in Pending status before being automatically denied. The default application period is 5 calendar days. An Applicant whose Application is automatically denied during the pending period may re-apply.

Percent of Poverty- Percent of Poverty (POP) refers to the U.S. Federal Poverty Guidelines published by the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Priority- the ranking of Applicants based on a calculation. Applicants who are on a waitlist are selected for SLOTS based on their priority points.

Removed- a status that indicates a Household who was Enrolled has been unenrolled. This may occur when a Household closes an account or moves out of a service territory. Typically occurs because of a utility action.

Recertification- the process of a) retaining an Enrollee/Participant from one period to the next, b) automatically or semi-automatically re-enrolling a Participant based on prior participation in a program.

Withdrawn- A status that indicates a Household has opted to leave an HEA program. This is usually assumed to be voluntary. This may occur when a Household closes an account or moves out of a service territory.

Waitlist- A list of Households or utility accounts, who have applied and been determined to be eligible for a “SLOT”. Applicants on a waitlist are prioritized. Applicants are selected and placed in a SLOT based on their Priority (see above definition).

Rejected- An applicant that was approved based on eligibility and submitted to a utility but was not accepted or rejected for enrollment into a benefit program. This may occur when an Applicant was placed onto a waitlist and then their account closed.

Void / Voided Application- The status of an Application. Typically, an Application is Void or Voided because it contains an error and is “voided” so that it can be replaced with another Application.

Exhibit C – Waiver/Release

AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE INFORMATION AND WAIVER OF CLAIMS
(“AUTHORIZATION”)

Purpose of this Authorization: To be eligible for the _____ (“Program”), _____ (“Utility”), Community Action Kentucky, Inc. (“CAK”) and your Community Action Agency _____ (“CAA”) (collectively, the “Parties”) must share, exchange and use certain Information (defined below) about applicants and participants. We refer to the process of sharing, exchanging, and using Information as a “release” of Information. This release of Information may take place on paper or electronically. The purpose of this Authorization is to: a) get your permission for the Parties to release Information about you in connection with the Program; b) get your promise not to make a claim against the Parties arising from a release of Information; and c) ensure you understand that giving permission for the release of your Information does not guarantee your selection for or continued enrollment in the Program.

Definition of Information: For purposes of this Authorization, the term “**Information**” means information that includes all records about you and your natural gas account, including but not limited to your payment records, usage data, natural gas consumption, meter reading dates, service disconnection data, past due payments, billing due dates and amounts, pledges and partial payment agreements, information about your application and eligibility for available weatherization programs, existing third-party notification information, other benefits or subsidies you receive to cover your home heating costs, amounts of other assistance provided, any intake and benefit information from the Program, social security number, driver’s license number, age, date of birth, health information and information relating to disabilities (except for mental health or chemical dependency information from a health care provider), employment information, education level, criminal history, income and financial information and any information collected or generated by the IRS with regard to your tax liability.

Authorization Time Periods: If you sign this Authorization, the Parties may release your Information covering the following time periods: a) sixty (60) months before the date of this Authorization; and b) up through the latter of: (i) sixty (60) months after the date of this Authorization; or (ii) six months after the effective date that your participation in the Program ends.

By initialing below, I accept and agree as follows:

- A. I acknowledge that it is necessary for a release of my Information by and between the Parties so that the Parties can determine whether I would benefit from the Program, determine the level of benefits for which I may be eligible, administer the Program and study the overall effectiveness of the Program. I further understand that by authorizing the release my Information, I am not being assured of selection for, or continued enrollment in, the Program.
- B. The Parties have my express permission to release the Information for the purposes described in this Authorization.
- C. In consideration for processing my application and determining my eligibility in the Program, I release the Parties (including their directors, officers, affiliates, employees and authorized agents) from any and all liability whatsoever for, and forever discharge and waive any claim that arises in connection with, the release of the Information for the purposes described in this Authorization (“Waiver of Claims”).

D. I may withdraw this Authorization and, thus, withdraw from participation in the Program, by making a written request to my CAA. I understand that if I withdraw this Authorization, the Parties will cease to further release Information about me upon the expiration of six months after the effective date my participation in the Program ends except as may be required by law. I also understand that my withdrawal of this Authorization does not affect my Waiver of Claims above related to a release of Information that occurs before the expiration of six months after the effective date that my participation in the Program ends.

Initial of Applicant/Authorized Representative

DISCLAIMER

The Program, including benefit amounts and eligibility requirements, may be changed from time-to-time, which changes in some cases may require the approval by the Kentucky Public Service Commission. Benefits will be paid only so long as funding is available and you remain eligible for the benefits. Participation in a Program during any Program Year does not make you eligible to participate in any Program during a subsequent Program Year, and you will be required to reapply, and your eligibility for benefits from any Program will be reassessed for each Program Year.

No part of any Program benefit will be refunded or paid to you in cash. If a final bill otherwise shows a credit balance, part or all of which is the result of the application of a Program benefit, a refund will be made of only that portion, if any, of the final credit balance that exceeds the total Program benefits applied during the current Program Year.

Signature of Applicant/Authorized Representative **Date**

Print name and relationship to Applicant of person signing above:

Printed Name **Relationship (POA, Spouse, Child, etc.)**

Agreement Between Utility and Community Action Kentucky, Inc.

Exhibit D – Data Exchanges

Utility and CAK shall exchange the following reports electronically using an agreed-upon data transfer method that would be expected to provide adequate security for such data.

Request File - CAK will provide Utility with a request file that will request a new eligible customer to be enrolled or notify the utility if a customer should be removed (e.g. no longer eligible).

- i. CASTiNET ServiceId (Unique identifier in CASTiNET)
- ii. Utility Account Number (Unique identifier for the Utility)
- iii. Name on Account (optional)
- iv. Program Type (This is critical for utilities that provide Baseload, All-electric and Donation Programs)
- v. Request Type
 - a. A(Enroll)
 - b. R(remove)

Response File - In response to receipt of CAK's request file, the Utility will transmit a response file containing if the request was successful and if not a reason.

- i. CASTiNET ServiceId (Unique identifier in CASTiNET)
- ii. Utility Account Number (Unique identifier for the Utility)
- iii. Name on Account (optional)
- iv. Program Type (This is critical for utilities that provide Baseload, All-electric and Donation Programs)
- v. Response Type
 - a. E(nrolled) in response to A(Enroll)
 - b. R(Rejected) in response to A(Enroll) or R(remove) – will require reason
 - c. M(removed) in response to R(remove)
- vi. Date
- vii. Reason

Removal File – The utility will notify CAK when a customer enrolled in the Program has been removed by the utility for reasons other than a removal request from CAK. This may be because the customer is no longer eligible (e.g. requested service to be discontinued, has been disconnected for non-payment or no longer meets eligibility criteria as defined in Exhibit B.

- i. Utility Account Number
- ii. Name on Account
- iii. Program Type (electric, base load, etc)
- iv. Reason
- v. Date