



Now more than ever, DTE Energy needs the help of our community partners and community leaders to tell every Michigan resident that state and federal energy assistance is still available. Angie Pizzuti, our vice president of Customer Service and Chief Customer Officer, recently shared how DTE Energy and utilities across Michigan are helping our most vulnerable customers in these winter months through an [opinion-editorial in the *Detroit News*](#). More than \$160 million in energy assistance relief is available, but we need our customers to proactively claim these funds by the end of this year.

**We must get the word out:
Anybody who truly needs help, gets help**

As you are well aware, we need to direct Michigan residents to tap into government money through the Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) and the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), as well as nonprofit sources such as the United Way of Southeast Michigan and The Health and Warmth Fund (THAW).

DTE customers alone received \$119 million in 2021 through MEAP and LIHEAP, and from nonprofit agencies partially funded by DTE. We assisted 7,500 customers in applying for state and federal aid and offered convenient payment plans for 66,000 customers. We also worked with the state to forgive nearly \$4 million in debt for more than 23,000 customers.

We need your help to spread the word

We are asking all our community partners to send a communication to your constituents between February 14 – February 21 describing the amount of energy assistance available. **If Michigan residents face problems paying their bill – call DTE at 800-477-4747 as soon as possible or reach out via our website at www.dteenergy.com/help**. We also attached the latest payment assistance brochure which breaks out the programs and agencies here to help connect residents with much needed relief.

DTE has a personalized service protection plan, a program launched at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic to draw together the many forms of assistance and personalize solutions for DTE customers based on their specific circumstances. These personalized plans are continuing through 2022.

In addition to energy assistance, The Michigan Homeowner Assistance Fund (MIHAF) uses federal resources allocated under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to provide financial assistance to homeowners who have fallen behind on homeownership-related expenses. The MIHAF program can help with delinquent mortgage, property tax and/or condominium payments, payment of escrow shortages, and past due utilities payments, including gas, water, electric, and internet or broadband. Interested homeowners can find details and a link to the application portal at Michigan.gov/MIHAF or receive assistance with their application submission by calling 844-756-4423