

# MANAGING UTILITY BILLS DURING THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS



There are many resources available to keep utility bills affordable, but consumers need to speak up and explore options with their utilities.

## CONSERVE



Energy usage makes up the largest portion of monthly utility costs for most consumers, so conservation can reduce the size of future energy bills.

### **CALL PUC**



The PUC's Bureau of
Consumer Services is
available for questions and
consumer complaints.
Call 1-800-692-7380 or
online at www.puc.pa.gov



## **Utility Customer Assistance Programs (CAPs)**

CAPs offer discounted bills for qualifying low-income customers. If your family income has dropped because of the coronavirus emergency, it's possible that CAPs could reduce your monthly utility bill. If you're currently in a CAP and your income has dropped further, you may now qualify for an even lower payment.



### Other Options to Help with Bills

BUDGET BILLING - Annual utility costs are averaged over 12 months so bills don't jump up or down from month to month;

PAYMENT PLANS - Help customers address past-due utility bills or delinquent balances over a period of time;

HARDSHIP FUNDS - Financial assistance programs supported by utilities and donations from utility customers, along with non-profit and charitable organizations operating in the Commonwealth.



### LIFELINE for Phone & Internet Services

Contact your telephone company or a participating wireless services provider about Lifeline, a federal financial support program that helps eligible low-income consumers and households to keep their telephone and internet access services.



### **Conservation Can Make a Difference**

Many households are now spending their entire day at home and increasing their use of computers and other devices. Simple things like switching off unneeded lights and appliances; sealing air leaks; running only full loads in washers, dryers and dishwashers; or adjusting thermostats a few degrees, can add up to substantial energy savings over the course of a month.

# 1-800-692-7380



Agents from the PUC's
Bureau of Consumer
Services are available
to answer questions or
take complaints if
consumers do not believe
a utility is being responsive.

# www.puc.pa.gov



Visit the PUC website for consumer information and tips; more about special steps being taken during the current crisis; and to access online utility complaint forms.