



Phil Murphy
Governor

Sheila Oliver
Lt. Governor

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, Suite 314
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350
www.nj.gov/bpu/

Aida Camacho-Welch
Secretary to the Board
(609) 292-1599

In the Matter of the Energy Assistance Grant As Authorized Under N.J.S.A. 48:2-29.39 and N.J.S.A. 46:30B-74(b) - Payment Assistance for Gas and Electric (PAGE) Program

Several questions have been posed to the Board of Public Utilities ("Board" or "BPU") concerning the Notice of Availability of Grant ("[Notice](#)") regarding the PAGE Program. The deadline for questions concerning this Notice was April 9, 2018 at 5pm. The responses to the questions received by the Board are set forth below and are posted to the Board's website www.nj.gov/bpu/ to assist all potential bidders in developing their proposals. Similar questions were consolidated to prevent repetition.

- 1) **Question:** The notice states that "the program should be structured such that no more than one grant for electric service and one grant for gas service may be provided to any applicant within a 12 month period":
 - a. Is the applicant that is referred to in this sentence the resident receiving assistance or the non-profit organization who is selected to administer the program?
Answer: The applicant in this sentence is the resident receiving assistance on their utility bill.
 - b. Can the grant cover multiple billing periods during which the resident had unpaid bills and if so, how many billing periods?
Answer: If not specified in the Notice, the bidder may propose parameters. Each bidder will be scored based on the merit of their proposal according to the requirements listed in the Notice.
- 2) **Question:** The announcement under the "Background" paragraph indicates that "...authorizes the Board to designate an established statewide non-profit energy assistance organization to receive supplemental funding from unclaimed property....."
 - a. Does this mean that only one non-profit will be designated or can there be multiple agencies receiving this designation?
Answer: The Notice does not preclude more than one entity from receiving funding.
- 3) **Question:** Under the "Background" paragraph there is reference to NJSHARES. Is NJSHARES the incumbent administrator of the program?
Answer: No, the PAGE program is currently administered by the Affordable Housing Alliance.
- 4) **Question:** Under the section entitled "Grant Solicitation Process – Amount of funds available in the program", the announcement states that "It is currently estimated that approximately

\$7,000,000 will be available after June 30, 2018, however annual grants have been as low as \$800,000. The average annual amount available is approximately \$2,500,000”

- a. **Question:** Do these quoted amounts refer to a per applicant (i.e.: grantee) or if there are multiple grantees, to the total grant funding for all of them?

Answer: The estimated variable funding amounts listed in the Notice refer to total funding available.

- b. **Question:** Are we to assume that this designation and the annual grants will be available for only one year or for multiple years?

Answer: Variable funding is available each year as per the Notice. The contract between the Board and the Grantee will be a three year contract.

- 5) **Question:** Under the Proposal Preparation section, subparagraph b) it is indicated that each proposal should include the following: "Program eligibility and recertification requirements". What recertifications are you referring to that may be required?

Answer: After an applicant has applied for and been certified as eligible for a PAGE grant on either electric or gas, they may reapply later for the other utility bill, or may reapply after a 12 month period. The bidder will need to propose what documents each applicant will need to provide to establish their eligibility for a PAGE grant as well as what documents would be acceptable for recertification.

- 6) **Question:** Is a non-profit hospital allowed to apply or is this only for residential customers?

Answer: The Notice states "Nonprofit organizations [(501(c)(3) organizations] with service location(s) located, or to be located, in New Jersey, that have experience in administering financial assistance programs may apply". The nonprofit chosen by the Board would administer the PAGE grant for the Board and disburse funding to households in need directly to their utility companies. Applicants for funding must have demonstrated staff and resource capability, and experience with assistance programs.

- 7) **Question:** Is a governmental entity that provides LIHEAP/USF services, though not a 501c3 organization, eligible to apply to administer the PAGE program?

Answer: The Notice indicates that entities which may apply for funding are Nonprofit organizations [(501(c)(3) organizations] with service location(s) located, or to be located, in New Jersey, that have experience in administering financial assistance programs.

- 8) **Question:** How many awards will be granted?

Answer: Unknown at this time.

- 9) **Question:** Is the grant a reimbursement or a lump sum up front?

Answer: Lump sum up front.

- 10) **Question:** Are there certain geographic areas we would have to serve?

Answer: The Notice indicates that a "Grantee" shall be a nonprofit organization, designated by the Board after demonstrating the ability to coordinate distributions to Limited Income Households statewide.

- 11) **Question:** What are the eligibility requirements of the grantee organization?

Answer: Please refer to the Notice. Each bidder will be scored based on the merit of their proposal according to the requirements listed in the Notice.

- 12) **Question:** What are the eligibility criteria of the beneficiaries of this grant?
Answer: Please refer to the Notice. Each bidder will be scored based on the merit of their proposal according to the requirements listed in the Notice.
- 13) **Question:** What are the allowable costs, in addition to the utility payment?
Answer: Please refer to the Notice. Each bidder will be scored based on the merit of their proposal according to the requirements listed in the Notice.
- 14) **Question:** How much funding is available overall?
Answer: Please refer to the Notice, section titled “Amount of funds available in the program”.
- 15) **Question:** How much funding is available to each organization?
Answer: Please refer to the Notice, section titled “Amount of funds available in the program”.
- 16) **Question:** What about the beneficiaries – is there a limit on the amount of funding they can receive?
Answer: The Notice states “the program should be structured such that no more than one grant for electric service and one grant for gas service may be provided to any applicant within a 12 month period”. Each bidder will be scored based on the merit of their proposal according to the requirements listed in the Notice.
- 17) **Question:** What are the time frames of the grant?
Answer: The Notice states “applicants must be able to commence the distribution of grants to those in need no later than the beginning of the heating season, or October 1, 2018”. The length of the Grantee’s contract with the Board will be three years.
- 18) **Question:** Where can I find a copy of the application?
Answer: The Grantee will propose their own application to certify a household’s eligibility for a grant. The current PAGE administrator’s application is available at:
http://www.njpoweron.org/documents/PAGE_APPLICATION.pdf
- 19) **Question:** Does this funding allow for the incorporation of personnel, general administration, and other operational expenses in the administration of this program in the budget?
Answer: Guidance regarding requested budget is provided in the Notice in the section titled “Proposal Preparation”.
- 20) **Question:** Can an organization apply for funding for a specific county or counties in which they currently provide assistance services, i.e. LIHEAP/USF?
Answer: The Notice indicates that a “Grantee” shall be a nonprofit organization, designated by the Board after demonstrating the ability to coordinate distributions to Limited Income Households statewide.
- 21) **Question:** Is it required that an applicant organization have the ability to service ALL the counties in NJ?
Answer: The Notice indicates that a “Grantee” shall be a nonprofit organization, designated by the Board after demonstrating the ability to coordinate distributions to Limited Income Households statewide.