

**PROJECT HELPING HAND COMMITTEE OF THE
ELECTRIC UTILITY BOARD AGENDA**

June 18, 2019

10:00 A.M.

**Lubbock Power & Light
Mezzanine Conference Room
1301 Broadway
Lubbock, Texas 79401**

1. Call to order.
2. Discuss grants, assistance and incentive programs, and other methods and activities that may be available to assist customers' related to electric utility costs, including without limitation, the programs described on Exhibit "A", hereto.
3. Adjourn.

THE PROJECT HELPING HAND COMMITTEE OF THE ELECTRIC UTILITY BOARD RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AS AUTHORIZED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §551.001, *ET. SEQ.* (THE TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT) ON ANY ITEM ON ITS OPEN MEETING AGENDA, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION §551.071-551.086 OF THE TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT.

Posted on the bulletin board outside the east entrance
of City Hall, 1625 13th Street, Lubbock, Texas, on
the 14th day of June 2019, at 4:30 P.M.

By: _____

CITY OF LUBBOCK PROJECT HELPING HAND COMMITTEE OF THE ELECTRIC UTILITY BOARD MEETINGS ARE
AVAILABLE TO ALL PERSONS REGARDLESS OF DISABILITY. IF YOU REQUIRE SPECIAL ASSISTANCE, PLEASE
CONTACT THE CITY SECRETARY AT 775-2026 OR WRITE P. O. BOX 2000, LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79457, AT LEAST 48
HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING.

Exhibit "A"

Helping Hands Committee

June 18, 2019

Agenda

Introductory facts:

The median household income for Texas in 2017 was \$59,206 which is \$1,130 lower than the median US household income. In Lubbock County, median income is \$47,460. The 2018 Federal Poverty Guidelines for a family of four is \$25,100.

The purpose of block grants from the federal Department of Health and Human Services:

To assist households with low incomes, particularly those with the lowest incomes that pay a high proportion of household income for home energy, primarily in meeting their immediate home energy needs.

- I. Neighborhood House – Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP)**
Joy Loper, Director
- II. Catholic Charities – Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)**
Sabrina Robbins, Director
- III. Community Development, City of Lubbock, receives funding for Lubbock County from Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEP)**
 - To assist low income families that pay a high proportion of household income for home energy costs.
 - Grants target benefits to households with elderly, disabled and/or young children.
 - Must provide crisis assistance thru March 15
 - Can provide home cooling, weatherization and/or energy related low-cost home repairs or replacements.
 - Funded as a pass-through grant from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA), funded directly by Health and Human Services.
 - *Residential Energy Assistance Challenge Program (REACH)* allows HHS to award supplemental LIHEAP funding to current grantees to implement innovative plans to reduce home energy vulnerability.

Karen Murfee, Director of Community Development
Kyla Gilmore, Community Development
- IV. South Plains Community Action Agency in Levelland**
Receives funding from Department of Energy, *Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)*
Melinda Harvey, Director
- V. Discussion**

Target Population:

Grantees must target benefits to households with low incomes.

They must cap LIHEAP income-eligibility at

- (1) no more than the greater of 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) (\$37,650) or 60 percent of the State Median Income (in Texas for a family of four, \$35,523); and
- (2) no less than 110 percent of FPG (\$27,610).

They must also give higher benefits to households with the greatest home energy need in relation to household income and number of household members.

Grantees also must target benefits to households with members who are elderly, disabled, and/or a young child.

Uses:

Grantees must provide crisis assistance through at least March 15.

They have the option to provide home cooling, weatherization, and/or energy-related low-cost home repairs or replacements.

Home energy is defined as a source of space-heating or space-cooling in residential dwellings. Grantees can use funds for heating and/or cooling costs as well as up to 15 percent of their funding (or 25 percent with a waiver) for weatherization assistance.

Leveraging Incentive Program: The law allows HHS to award supplemental LIHEAP funding to current grantees that used non-federal resources with their programs in the prior year.

Residential Energy Assistance Challenge Program (REACH): The law allows HHS to award supplemental LIHEAP funding for current grantees to receive competitive grants to implement innovative plans to help LIHEAP eligible households reduce their home energy vulnerability.