



Iowa Utilities Board

Gerri D. Huser, Chair
Richard W. Lozier, Jr., Board Member
Joshua J. Byrnes, Board Member

January 10, 2022

The Honorable Tim Kraayenbrink, Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Gary Mohr, Chair, House Appropriations Committee

Dear Senator Kraayenbrink and Representative Mohr:

Iowa Code § 476.66(6) requires the Iowa Utilities Board (Board) to submit an annual report to the Appropriations Committees regarding the status of utility customer contribution funds. These were created to accept voluntary contributions from utility customers to supplement federal weatherization and energy assistance to low-income households (LIHEAP).

Legislation requiring all-natural gas and electric utilities to establish customer contribution funds was adopted in 1988 and implemented in 1989. Utilities file annual reports with the Board that summarize each fund's activities for the prior state fiscal year. The attached report summarizes those submissions for FY 2021.

If we can provide any further information, please contact Maison Bleam, our legislative liaison, at 515-725-7344.

Sincerely,

Gerri Huser Date: 2022.01.10
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Gerri D. Huser
Chair

Attachment: Customer Contribution Fund Annual Report

cc: W. Charles Smithson, Secretary of the Senate
Meghan Nelson, Chief Clerk of the House
Senate Appropriations Committee Members
House Appropriations Committee Members

**Customer Contribution Fund
Annual Statewide Report
Iowa Utilities Board**

For Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Iowa Code § 476.66 requires all electric and natural gas utilities to establish a fund that supplements the low-income home energy assistance program (LIHEAP) and to assist with weatherization. Customers and other entities may contribute to the fund. Each utility must establish a board or committee to determine the appropriate distribution of the funds. The funds are distributed directly by the utility or through the local community action agency.

Each utility must file with the Utilities Board (Board) an annual report of their fund's activity. The Board must compile the utility reports into the Annual Statewide Report (below) for submission to the General Assembly.

CONTRIBUTIONS	
Number of Customers Contributing	9,763
Undistributed Fund from Previous Year	\$209,654
Customer Contributions Collected	\$579,614
Matching and Other Contributions	\$86,539
Total Contributions	\$875,807
Reimbursed Expenses	\$3,750
NET CONTRIBUTIONS	\$872,056

FUND DISTRIBUTIONS	
Weatherization Program	\$4,417
Heating Assistance Payments	\$812,727
Other Programs	\$38,231
TOTAL FUNDS DISTRIBUTED	\$855,375
Estimated Number of Households Assisted	2,897
AVERAGE ASSISTANCE PER HOUSEHOLD	\$295

UTILITY EXPENSES	
Advertising	\$9,600
Admin. & General Salaries	\$14,018
Office Supplies & Expenses	\$8,666
Supervision – Labor & Expenses	\$809
Mailing	\$588
Printing	\$3,737
Publication	\$14,082
Total Expenses	\$51,501
Reimbursed Expenses	\$3,750
UNREIMBURSED UTILITY EXPENSES	\$47,751

Notes: The Annual Statewide Report represents the total values reported by 228 utilities that provide electric and/or natural gas service. This includes five investor-owned utilities, 180 municipal utilities, and 43 cooperative utilities.

The Board compiles the annual report of fund results as submitted by the utilities, but does not verify the accuracy of information provided by the utilities.

Figures are rounded to the nearest dollar. Funds not distributed during a fiscal year are carried forward to the next fiscal year. Each utility is allowed to keep 5 percent of annual contributions to defray program expense.