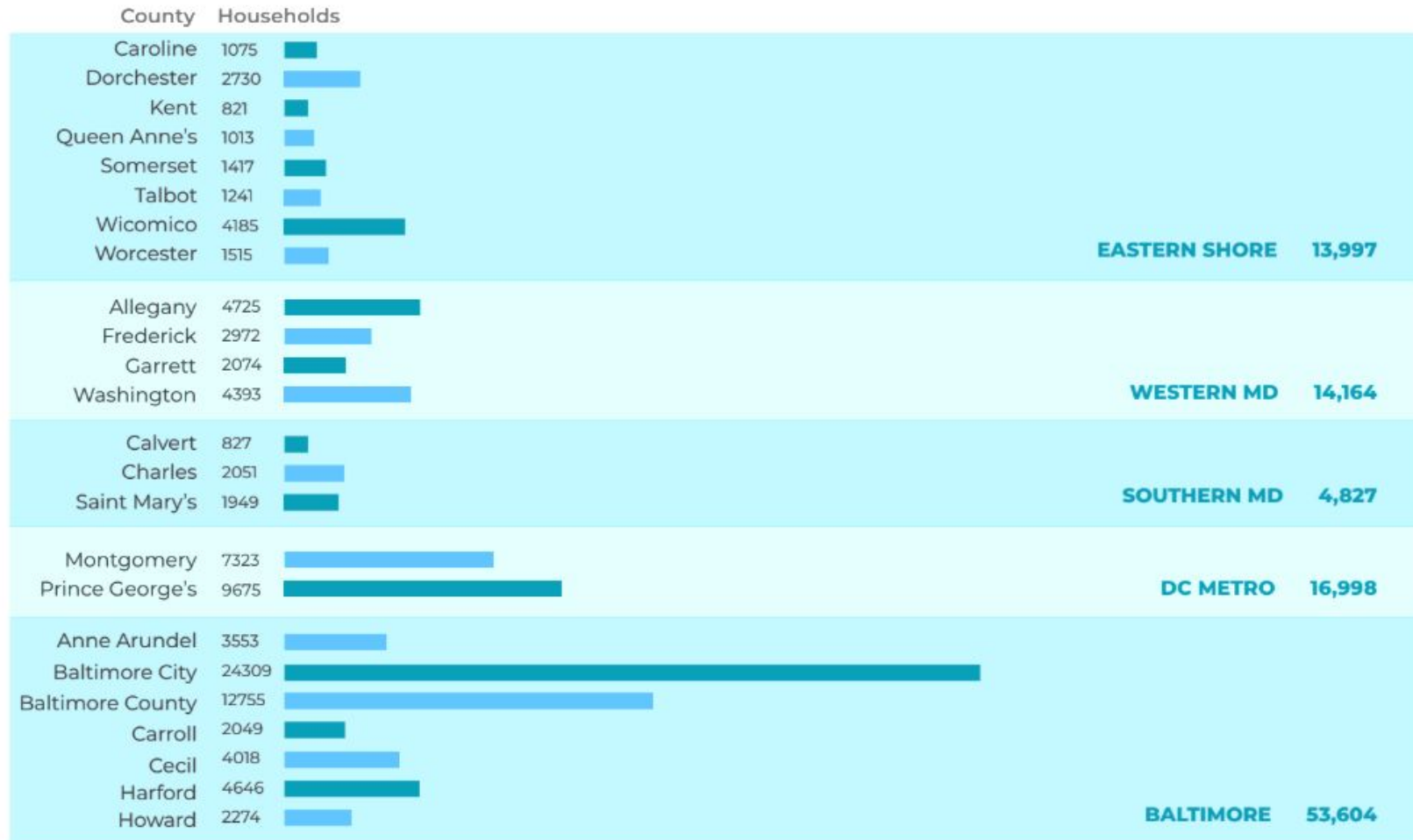




**COG Built Environment and Energy Advisory Committee,
Office of Home and Energy Programs
Panel Responses
11/20/2025**

LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM


HOUSEHOLDS SERVED



Total Served: 103,590

Totals represent total households served, Federal Fiscal Year 2024 (10/1/2023 - 9/30/2024).

Maryland's Energy Assistance Programs

- Maryland's energy assistance programs are administered through the Department of Human Services' Office of Home Energy Programs (OHEP)
 - The core programs:
 - Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) for heating support
 - Electric Universal Service Program (EUSP) for electric bill assistance,
 - Additional components include Electric Arrearage Retirement Assistance (EARA), Gas Arrearage Retirement Assistance (GARA), and Winter MEAP Crisis benefits for heating emergencies
 - For assistance constituents apply online through [Maryland Benefits](#), in person, or through Categorical Eligibility if they receive SNAP or other qualifying benefits.
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Application Process

- Most households are directly certified via their participation in SNAP, TANF, or Receipt of Veteran Benefits
- Direct certified households do not have to apply. If we have documents to calculate their benefits, payments are sent directly to utility providers
- Applicants might apply online, via phone, or in-person at any of OHEP locations
- Contracted Local Administering Agencies (LAAs) process applications and secure required verifications
- After approval, customers utility accounts are credited

Maryland also invests \$5 million in weatherization to reduce energy costs. The direct utility assistance combined with weatherization and solar initiative constituent a comprehensive approach to making energy more affordable.



What is the status of LIHEAP funds in your state?

- Like other States, Maryland has been in the dark about the status of LIHEAP funding
 - We did not get any communication from HHS regarding this program during the government shutdown
 - Early this week, we received communication that LIHEAP funds will be awarded “soon”.
 - We leveraged carryover funding to continue benefits in October.
 - Governor Wes Moore [Executive Order 01.01.2025.24](#)
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Contingency Plan

Maryland will activate the following contingency plan to ensure continued program operations and customer protections.

- LAAs will continue processing applications
- Approved applications will be placed in a pre-certified status, meaning payments will not be released to utilities until funds are received.
- Bulk Fuel applications will be prioritized due to the immediate nature of fuel delivery, especially for vulnerable and medically fragile households.
- For customers facing utility shut off, LAAs will apply the standard 55-day extension and request an additional 30-day extension for vulnerable households.

