

Superior Watershed Partnership Michigan Energy Assistance Program (SWP MEAP)

AN UPPER PENINSULA PROGRAM COORDINATED BY THE SUPERIOR WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP AND PROJECT PARTNERS

401 E Fair Ave • Lakeview Arena • Marquette, Michigan 49855

Phone: (906) 273-2742 • Fax (906) 273-2741 • email: meap@superiorwatersheds.org

APPLYING FOR BENEFITS USING MIBRIDGES

Benefits include: healthcare coverage, food assistance program (FAP), Cash Assistance (TANF), Child development and care (CDC) and State Emergency Relief (SER)

Go to: <https://newmibridges.michigan.gov> OR visit your local Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) office to fill out a paper application.

1. Launch New Assistance Application.
2. Click Apply for Benefits.
3. Check the *Programs* for which you are interested applying for, then click [Start Application].
4. Choose the SUPERIOR WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP as your Navigator by clicking on the “Navigator” button at the bottom of any page. Give your Navigator permissions to view your information so that they can assist you. The SUPERIOR WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP will contact you to complete the MEAP Self-Sufficiency requirements.
5. Make sure you complete the identity verification or we will not be able to see your determination letters and you will not be allowed to upload your documents.
6. Submit application.
7. DHHS has 10 days to process your application and will send a Decision Notice once that is completed.
8. If you have a co-pay and need assistance, call the SUPERIOR WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP. If you are denied and don’t understand why, call the SUPERIOR WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP and ask them to review your determination letter.

Tips for applying for State Emergency Relief (SER)

- You are allowed one vehicle per household.
- Your primary homestead does not count towards an asset.
- You are required to make monthly contributions to your utility bill, which may result in a co-pay or a denial. Please see the chart on the back of this sheet for the amounts your family may be responsible for. In the event of a co-pay, you may be able to get your MEAP Navigator to help.
- MEAP funds are only available to SER approved recipients.
- Each household can only receive one SER assist for heat and one SER assist for electric during each grant period (October 1 through September 30).
- Additional assistance or help with SER co-pays may be provided by a MEAP-funded agency.
- MEAP-funded agencies are required to conduct self-sufficiency services.
- The SWP requirement includes the completion of the Self-Sufficiency Plan, Needs Assessment and the Energy Conservation and Money Management Workshop.
- Clients above the 20% Federal Poverty Level may qualify for affordable payment plans for DTE, Consumers Energy, SEMCO and UPPCO.
- The cap for MEAP is \$2,000 PER GRANT TERM (October 1 through September 30) and does not include SER payments.
- Call the SWP office with any questions: 906-273-2742 M-F (EST) 8:00am to 5:00pm

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The MDHHS may require that your household has made payments towards your utility bills in the past six months. Use the SER REQUIRED PAYMENTS chart below by selecting the number of household members and finding the energy type you are seeking assistance for. Non-payment over the last 6 months may result in a State Emergency Relief (SER) co-pay. If you cannot afford your co-pay, you can contact the Superior Watershed Partnership or other MEAP Grantee for assistance. In certain situations, you may be denied if you are asking for less assistance than you were required to pay. If this occurs, you can make a payment to your utility provider and then re-apply for SER.

SER REQUIRED PAYMENTS

SER GROUP SIZE	HEAT REQUIRED PAYMENT	ELECTRIC REQUIRED PAYMENT	TOTAL REQUIRED ENERGY
1	\$40	\$22	\$62
2	\$53	\$29	\$82
3	\$64	\$35	\$99
4	\$78	\$42	\$120
5	\$90	\$48	\$138
6	\$107	\$58	\$165
*	\$10 *	\$6 *	\$16 *