



**Department
of Public Service**

Protecting Vulnerable Customers

New York's Utility Low Income Assistance Programs

2016 LIFE Statewide Conference
May 25-26, 2016

Low Income Program Overview

- Annual funding
 - Order - \$248 million
 - May 2016: \$135.7 million
 - 2009: \$65 million
 - 2005: \$37 million
- Types of programs
 - Broad-based discounts
 - Targeted assistance
- Participants
 - L.I. Order – 1.65 million
 - May 2016: 1.1 million (11.6% of residential utility customers)
 - 2009: 730,000
 - 2005: 587,000

Benefits per participant

- Average annual benefit of \$120
- Benefits for heating customers average about 10% of total bill
- Targeted programs provide more benefits
 - Benefit varies depending on household size, income
 - Arrears forgiveness
- Portfolio of programs
 - 5 of NY's 7 major energy utilities use both broad-based, targeted approaches
 - Majority of funding (84%) provided for broad-based

PSC's ongoing work

- Low Income Proceeding — Case 14-M-0565 - Will conform existing low income programs to Commission Order. Company filings due on August 19, 2016
- Will review Company's filings.
- Continue to balance funding with impacts on non-participants to achieve a 6% energy burden
- Continue to reflect best practices.
- Continue to monitor programs.