

Further to May 11, 2009 posting by Ontario Energy Board

NOMINATION **Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) Implementation** **Financial Assistance Working Group**

Background

In 2004, the Ministry of Community and Social Services announced the establishment of Emergency Energy Fund to help low-income Ontarians facing energy-related emergencies.

Each municipality received funding based on population. In Toronto, EEF is administered by Toronto Employment & Social Services (TESS). While, the Ministry first announced it as one-time funding, EEF is now an on-going program.

Relevant Experience and Qualifications

I have been involved since the beginning of EEF in Toronto and remain the lead for delivery of this assistance. Over the past 5 years, I have fulfilled the following functions:

- Developed eligibility guidelines including income levels.
- Developed application and consent forms which meet MFIPPA standards.
- Developed application and interview process.
- Trained TESS staff.
- Revised guidelines and application process as needed over the years.
- Developed partnerships with community-based agencies (housing help centres) to expand the number of access points for low-income residents to apply.
- Reviewed applications and approved payments where applicable.
- Ensured that low-income residents are aware of other available resources, including social assistance.

Nomination

EEF has assisted several hundred low-income Toronto residents with energy-related arrears (hydro, gas and oil). The experience gained over these years would be beneficial in developing the new program (LEAP) and I would like to join the working group as a representative of a social service provider and the municipality.

Thank you

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