

# Maryland Office of People's Counsel

## ALERT

### ***OPC Reports on Maryland Low-Income Household Characteristics and Energy Supplier Prices***

**Characteristics of Low-income Households.** OPC has released a report on the characteristics of low-income households in Baltimore City and each county, including income, demographics, housing stock, fuel type and *energy burden (bill affordability)*. The report was prepared by APPRISE, a public policy research organization. OPC will use the data, findings and recommendations to evaluate and enhance Maryland's existing energy assistance and low-income energy efficiency programs. However, the information and data should be helpful to all interested agencies and communities working with low-income households, and we hope that you will take a look at the report and share it with other agencies and stakeholders.

**State of Retail Energy Competition and Supplier Prices for Residential Customers.** This report was prepared by consultant Susan M. Baldwin at OPC's request, and examined the history and current state of the retail energy market for Maryland households. The report contains a preliminary analysis of the total prices paid by households to energy suppliers in contrast to the utility supply price and determined that electricity and gas customers "are paying approximately \$54.9 more for electricity and gas than if they had purchased energy from their utilities." This preliminary assessment is consistent with an analysis in a just-released Abell Foundation Report, "*Maryland's Dysfunctional Residential Third-Party Energy Supply Market*," which also contains an important focus on the real-world experiences of low-income customers and electricity and gas supply contracts, and the additional monies they pay for essential energy services.

The OPC reports are available on our website at [www.opc.maryland.gov/ConsumerCorner/Publications](http://www.opc.maryland.gov/ConsumerCorner/Publications). The Abell Foundation report is available at <https://www.abell.org/publications>. If you have trouble downloading the reports, please send us an email at [DLInfo\\_opc@maryland.gov](mailto:DLInfo_opc@maryland.gov).

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