

FACT SHEET 6 - WHAT IS USPP?

1. USPP is the Utility Service Protection Program.
2. USPP is a utility program required by the Public Service Commission.
3. USPP is available to MEAP participants (but not to EUSP-only participants).
4. USPP offers the following **benefits**:
 - Even monthly payments (budget billing)
 - See **Fact Sheet 3 on Even Monthly Payment Plans**.
 - **No reconnection fee or security deposit for off-service applicants**
 - More specific payment arrangement requirements:
 - 1st time applicants – Must be reconnected if arrears are reduced to \$400.
 - Current participants who are off-service must pay an amount that reduces arrears to \$400 or the total outstanding monthly payments, whichever is greater.
 - 1st time applicants can apply MEAP benefits to past arrears.
 - Utilities often ask for and receive waivers so they can apply MEAP benefits to past arrears for continuing USPP customers
5. **Reminder: Bill Extender Plan**
 - **The Bill Extender Plan** allows you to get a bill payment date that works with your check receipt date
 - All utility customers on Social Security or other government-provided assistance programs should participate in the utility's Bill Extender Plan to avoid late fees.