



Appropriations, Energy & Technology and Human Services Committees Public Hearing
Thursday, August 7, 2025
Submitted by Perkin Simpson, Chief Executive Officer
Operation Fuel d/b/a Generation Power CT

Dear Co-Chairs, Rankings and Honorable Members of the Appropriations, Energy & Technology and Human Services Committees:

Operation Fuel d/b/a Generation Power CT Supports the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Block Grant Allocation Plan for Fiscal Year 2026.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on this critical, life-saving program.

On July 1, 2025, Operation Fuel officially rebranded. We are now Generation Power CT (or “GPCT,” legally Operation Fuel d/b/a Generation Power CT). Historically, our organization has provided emergency energy and water bill support to limited-income residents throughout Connecticut. While we will continue to provide emergency assistance, our new name reflects our expansion from crisis relief to include long-term energy- and water-related solutions. We will continue to advance policies such as ensuring utility service for medically vulnerable residents; developing affordable payment plans for limited-income ratepayers; and expanding access to clean energy technologies. GPCT is committed to advocating at the General Assembly, the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA), and other platforms to address energy affordability challenges in Connecticut.

GPCT is a standing member of the Low-Income Energy and Water Advisory Board (LIEWAB), which develops and allocates funding for Connecticut’s LIHEAP plan each year. We are grateful for Chair Claire Coleman of the Office of Consumer Counsel, and Commissioner Andrea Barton Reeves and her team at the Connecticut Department of Social Services, for their leadership throughout this challenging year. We also thank the subcommittee members and stakeholders who developed this year’s plan, and who work so hard to get these federal dollars to Connecticut residents in need. Finally, we thank the legislature for providing supplemental funding to both GPCT and the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP), for each of the next two years. As energy costs continue climbing faster than wages in our state, we appreciate your leadership to support families who are struggling to keep up.

When CEAP benefits run out for clients, Connecticut families turn to GPCT for emergency assistance. In Fiscal Year 2025 (that closed on June 30, 2025), we provided more than \$2.6 million in relief to 5,665 households, serving 13,775 residents of Connecticut. GPCT serves clients who earn up to 75% of the State Median Income level¹, which in 2025, was \$56,882 for

¹ <https://uwc.211ct.org/connecticut-state-median-income-2023/>



an individual. However, our average client's SMI is closer to 34% SMI. Additionally, 20% of our 2025 clients reported a medical need or disability that impacted their family's financial security. Our clients, many of whom also depend on CEAP to manage their energy costs, are some of the most economically and medically vulnerable residents of our state:

Here are two of the many notable testimonials received from clients:

- "I have a notice to quit possession of eviction for my apartment on the 2nd of October 2024. I have no income at this moment due to waiting on SSI. I am being evicted due to no utilities which is causing a violation of my lease. I have been without utilities for two months now. It is getting cold and I need heat and need to save my housing situation as soon as possible please. Thank you."
- "I recently made a payment arrangement however I am behind on my mortgage and struggling terribly with having to provide food for my three children therefore I cannot make the payment due today. I will most likely either be shut off or will be receiving a new shut off notice. I can make next month's payment just not this one."

As we have shared throughout the legislative session and in previous years' testimonies, demand for energy assistance from Connecticut residents continues to far outpace the funds and capacity of GPCT. We recognize that our previous model of two "seasons" per year is not meeting the urgent needs of our neighbors. While we continue to pursue additional funds, we also want our program season to be accessible more often. We hope this model offers transparency on when clients can apply for assistance and helps them plan and ideally to use other benefits (like CEAP) before coming to GPCT.

Starting this fall, Generation Power CT will offer four **(4) Emergency Energy Assistance Cycles**:

- September 2-10, 2025
- November 2-10, 2025
- January 2-10, 2026
- March 2-10, 2026

A visual calendar detailing the program schedule is provided on the next page.

During the above dates, GPCT's online application portal will be open for applications. During program cycles when we are taking applications, GPCT staff will be available by phone, Monday through Friday, from 9:00am to 2:00pm.

Outside of our four active program cycles, we will close the application portal to allow our team time to review and process applications. During these 45-day review periods, we will be available by phone Monday through Friday, from 9:00am to 12:00pm.

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**EMERGENCY ENERGY ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM SCHEDULE**





As we shift our service delivery model to provide more transparency and predictability, GPCT will increasingly focus our resources on **emergency** assistance for our highest-needed clients. We consider factors such as vulnerable aged household members, those with a medical condition or disability and those who are currently out of fuel or in an active shutoff situation. We recognize that this shift will mean that, as resources dwindle, we will have to deny some income-qualified residents each cycle. Those clients will be eligible to apply in the next cycle as long as they have not received a GPCT award in the past 12 months. For more information on our upcoming program season, please see slides appended to this testimony; and visit www.gpct.org/gethelp.²

As we all recognize, energy costs in Connecticut are too high for every family to afford. Financial crisis imposes a persistent and insidious state of emergency for those on fixed, limited or no incomes. Consistent and comprehensive funding for this vital program ensures families maintain a safe home environment year-round. While we are encouraged that this block grant allocation has an estimated \$89.2 million, the unpredictability of the federal government persists. We encourage the General Assembly, Governor's Office and necessary state agencies to consider allocating additional funding for energy assistance and weatherization programs this year, as soon as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony. GPCT supports this essential block grant allocation plan. We appreciate your commitment and leadership in reducing energy burden and ensuring this funding helps our most vulnerable residents keep their heat and lights on. Please contact GPCT's Chief Policy & Public Affairs, Gannon Long, at gannon@gpct.org to discuss more.

Sincerely,

Perkin Simpson, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer
Generation Power CT (Operation Fuel d/b/a Generation Power CT)

² <http://www.gpct.org/gethelp>