

SHORE UP!

INC.



Helping People. Changing Lives.

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2025

Executive Update

As autumn begins, I want to thank you for being part of the SHORE UP community. This season brings fresh starts in our classrooms, a busy time for energy assistance, and renewed focus on services that help neighbors of every age stay safe, housed, and moving forward.



Across our seven-county service area, families are enrolling children in Head Start and Early Head Start, older adults are connecting through our programs, and households are seeking help with utilities as temperatures change. Our teams are meeting people where they are, removing barriers, and celebrating wins both big and small. Your support makes that possible.

We are also preparing for the months ahead. Costs are rising for the same goods and services our programs rely on, and many families are feeling the pinch. In response, we are tightening operations, strengthening partnerships, and pursuing new funding so that services remain reliable and accessible. We are committed to transparency and will share updates about our progress in the coming months.

If you have not seen our work up close, I invite you to visit a program site this fall. Meet a teacher, talk with a case manager, or spend time at an activity with our seniors. The best way to understand the impact is to see it.

Here are three simple ways to help right now:

1. Share this newsletter with a friend who might need our services.
2. Follow SHORE UP on social media and amplify program updates.
3. Make a financial donation if you are able, or volunteer a few hours.

Every action counts.

Thank you for standing with SHORE UP and with the people we serve. Together, we can make this season one of stability, learning, and hope for our community.

Sincerely,
T.A.H. Chase, Ph.D.
Executive Director, SHORE UP, Inc.

Changing Lives Since '65!

This year marks SHORE UP's 60th anniversary. We started as a small community action agency in Worcester County in 1965, then continued to grow and expand our services so that now, we provide services for all nine counties on Maryland's Eastern Shore, and we are the designated Community Action Agency for four Eastern Shore Counties: Queen Anne's, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester.

Due to funding cuts and general uncertainty about the current economic climate, we will not be having a large-scale celebration; we do not believe that would be appropriate when so many people are struggling. Instead, we invite you to share stories about how SHORE UP has impacted your life over the years whether you received assistance from us, worked for the agency as an employee, or volunteered as a member of our Board of Directors. Send an email or a sort video to agency@shoreup.org with your SHORE UP memory, or post on social media with the hashtag #SHOREUPsince65

Fall Closures & Winter Weather

SHORE UP offices and facilities will be closed on the following holidays for the remainder of the year:

October 13: SHORE UP Central Office CLOSED; Shady Pines and Head Start Centers Open

November 11: SHORE UP Central Office CLOSED; Shady Pines and Head Start Centers Open

November 26: Head Start centers CLOSED; All other sites Open

November 27-28: All Sites CLOSED

December 23-24: Head Start centers CLOSED; All other sites Open

December 25-26: All Sites CLOSED

Please Note: If any sites have a delayed opening due to weather, that information will be listed on WBOC (and, for Upper Shore sites, WBAL). Typically, SHORE UP operates on the same schedule as the county's public school system.

Clarifying Weatherization Assistance Eligibility: What You Need to Know

If you've recently received a letter from the State of Maryland saying you qualify for Weatherization Assistance, you're not alone—many households are reaching out to learn more. This is great news, and we're glad so many residents are interested in making their homes more energy efficient and affordable.

However, we want to clear up one important point: **income eligibility is just one part of the process.** Your home must also meet specific conditions before we can safely and effectively complete weatherization services.

Some homes may be deferred from service if we find:

- Mold or moisture damage that must be addressed first
- Holes in the roof or other major structural problems
- Excessive clutter or hoarding that blocks access to critical areas
- Asbestos inside the home.
- Active termites
- Infestations of rodents, insects, or other vermin
- Whole house knob and tube wiring
- Lack of response to follow-up calls or appointment requests
- No measurable energy savings expected from weatherization work

We know it can be frustrating to hear that your home isn't currently eligible, especially after receiving a letter from the state. Please understand that these requirements are in place to protect your health and safety, and to ensure the best use of available resources.

If your home is deferred, we will explain the reason and, when possible, help connect you with services or next steps. Our goal is to support you—not turn you away.

Still have questions? Call us at 410-749-1142 and we'll walk you through the process!

A Full-Circle Moment in Head Start

Sometimes the most meaningful stories come from right here in our own classrooms. This fall, SHORE UP's Head Start program celebrated a very special milestone for Ms. Arionah Abney, one of our dedicated Early Head Start teachers.

Years ago, Ms. Abney was a Head Start student herself. Today, she has returned to the program that helped shape her childhood—but this time, she's on the other side of the classroom, nurturing and teaching the next generation. Even more remarkable, she now works alongside her own former teacher, Ms. Bell.

Their connection is a powerful reminder of the long-lasting impact early education can have. A child who once looked up to her teacher is now inspiring little ones of her own, proving that the influence of a caring educator reaches far beyond the classroom walls.

We are proud to celebrate Ms. Abney's journey and the way it illustrates the mission of Head Start: changing lives, one child at a time, and creating ripple effects that last for generations.



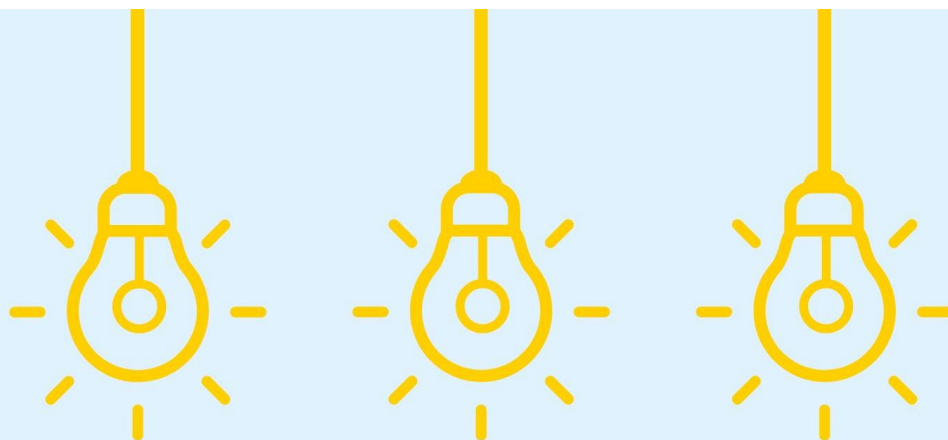
Now Accepting Applications: Delmarva Power Customer Relief Fund

SHORE UP is helping Delmarva Power customers apply for a one-time grant of up to \$300 toward their electric bill. This temporary relief fund—made possible by Delmarva Power's parent company, Exelon—is designed to support customers who are 60+ days past due and meet income guidelines.

- ◆ Must be an active residential customer of Delmarva Power
- ◆ At least \$250 past due for 60 days or more
- ◆ Household income at or below 400% of the federal poverty level

Funds are limited, so apply soon!

Call SHORE UP at 410-749-1142 or pick up an application in person at our Energy Assistance Office, located at the rear of 500 Snow Hill Road (facing Washington Street).



Delmarva Power customers who received assistance last year can receive an additional \$300 this year!

Conditions for eligibility apply.



For more information, call SHORE UP's energy assistance program at 410-749-1142, option 1.

