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(410) 235-9080. Documents and information filed in accordance with the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act available upon request from the Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401 for the cost of printing and postage.

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

Media Contact: *Maren Ross*

*Development Coordinator*

*mross@fuelfundmaryland.org*

*(410)844-3833*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NEW UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ANNOUNCED**

(Timonium, MD)—The Fuel Fund of Maryland (FFM) is excited to announce the *Power of One* program which provides financial assistance to a single parent household during a utility hardship.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, FFM saw an increase in energy assistance applications from single parent households who were spending more than one-third of their monthly income on their utility bill. In FY ‘22 (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022):

* Monthly income for a single parent household = $3,413.54
* Average utility bill for a single parent household = $1,241.42
* Average monthly income spent on utility bill = 36.3%
* Single parent households assisted = 1,061
* Children impacted = 1,905

To be eligible for the *Power of One* program, an individual must be an adult, single parent who has at least one child 17years of age or younger in the household while residing in the BGE service territory. The new program provides a dedicated staffer for 1:1 navigational support through the multi-step energy assistance application process.

“Application data and personal stories collected during COVID-19 has been program changing to the Fuel Fund of Maryland,” said Sam Impink, Chief Programs Officer. “We look forward to connecting *Power of One* households to the vital utilities that will strengthen and empower each ‘family unit’ moving forward.”

To use all resources available to a single parent household, FFM refers applicants to the government-funded programs that operate out of the State of Maryland’s Office of Home Energy Programs (OHEP). Often a single parent household receives adequate assistance from these programs. If a single parent household is still in need of financial assistance, the *Power of One* programcan help; based on funding availability.

The Fuel Fund of Maryland, a 501(c)(3), does not receive any federal, state, city, or county-wide funding and is supported through the generosity of individual donors, foundations, businesses, and religious community.

To contribute to Power of One: [www.fuelfundmaryland.org/donate](http://www.fuelfundmaryland.org/donate)

To apply for potential assistance with the Power of One program: [www.fuelfundmaryland.org/apply](http://www.fuelfundmaryland.org/apply)

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*Since 1981, the Fuel Fund of Maryland has been providing financial and community resources to low-income households in Baltimore City as well as Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard, Montgomery & Prince George’s counties who are struggling*

*with their home utility bill during a financial hardship.*