## **OVERVIEW**

For more than 30 years, Project Helping Hand (PHH) has been able to help keep the lights on for members in need. PHH is a voluntary member contribution program, which provides limited funding – payable through community agencies throughout the co-op's service territory – to those who need help paying their electric bills, i.e., senior citizens, military veterans, the disabled or members struggling to make ends meet. The program is an extension of Cooperative Principle 7: Concern for Community.

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Average number of consumer-members assisted per year.

Number of members who donate through the "Round Up" program.

\$52,000

Amount the co-op distributes annually to members in need.

4,900

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# **ELIGIBILITY**

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To receive help from Adams Electric's PHH program, call Adams Electric at 1-800-726-2324 during regular business hours. You will be directed to the agency nearest your service location that administers the funds for the co-op.

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### **Guidelines for PHH consideration:**

- Applicants must be a member of Adams Electric, and enrolled in PHH Round Up.
- Applicants must provide proof of an outstanding balance and show proof that 25 percent of the past-due bill has been paid, with payment arrangements made for the remaining past due balance. If an account is currently disconnected, the past-due balance must be paid in full.
- Applicants may be required to apply for LIHEAP/crisis assistance and/or provide proof of income to the funding agency.
- Applicants may only receive funds from the agency in the county in which they reside and may only receive assistance one time per calendar year for a members' primary residence.

\*District Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Agency requirements may vary.

Note: Project Helping Hand donations directly help qualifying Adams Electric Cooperative members who are struggling to pay their electric bills. PHH is a fund of the Adams County Community Foundation and your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please check with your tax adviser on deductibility. Donors will receive acknowledgement of gifts over \$10 via a letter from the Adams County Community Foundation, which helps administer the co-op's PHH program. The official registration and financial information of Adams County Community Foundation may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

For more information: call 1-800-726-2324 or visit adamsec.coop

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Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Donate now at *adamsec.coop* 

### **PENNIES FOR POWER** YOUR "CHANGE" CAN CHANGE LIVES!

Every October, during Co-op Month, Adams Electric makes an extra request of its members and employees to consider a special donation to Project Helping Hand. Our annual giving event aims to raise additional cash donations beyond the typical monthly donations collected through payroll deduction by employees and member contributions through Round Up. The drive increases the co-op's ability to help its consumermembers in need. Collection jars are set up in each district office for donations. Donations are also accepted online at adamsec.coop/content/project-helping-hand.

# **HOW PROJECT HELPING HAND** WORKS

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PHH provides once a year assistance to Adams Electric consumer-members for utility shut-off protection.

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- Participants may join any time during the year by contacting the cooperative. Likewise, a member may cancel participation whenever they wish.
- Through Round Up, if a member's electric bill totals \$85.36, they would be billed \$86. The bill would then note a 64-cent Round Up contribution to PHH.
- For tax purposes, annual donations to PHH, made through a member's electric bill are noted on the January bills each year. The total is for the previous year.

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- Register for Round Up and the co-op will round your utility bill to the next dollar each month.
- Register for Round Up Plus and the co-op will round your utility bill to the next dollar and add an additional \$1 (or designated amount) to your bill each month.
- Log on to your electric billing account through the SmartHub (bill view/bill pay) portal and opt-in to the "Round Up" program.
- Make a direct donation by sending a personal check or returning your Ownership Rewards check to PHH each year.
- Make a direct donation online through our third-party vendor, the Adams County Community Foundation. Visit the co-op's website, adamsec.coop/content/projecthelping-hand and click on the "Donate Now" button. (Please indicate Project Helping Hand in the fund name when making your donation - it will show up on the confirmation page).

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