

October 14, 2005

Jaclyn A. Brillling, Secretary  
New York State Public Service Commission  
3 Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12223-1350

RE: Case 05-M-0090

To Whom It May Concern:

United Way of the Southern Tier would like to express its full support for the continued funding of SBC III programs. In particular, we support funding that directly impacts residential energy conservation programs.

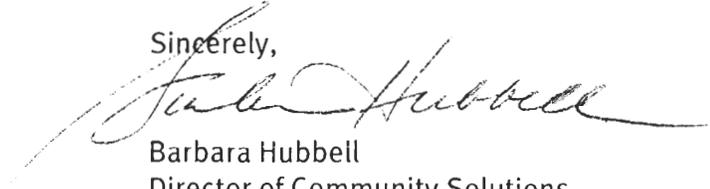
We would urge that the following points receive consideration:

- Extend the current time frame beyond the five years to, perhaps, up to ten years to allow the programs to expand and mature.
- Increase the funding for the residential side of the programs. A 50/50 funding split between residential and commercial would be a great improvement.
- Increase the funding for the low income programs to at least 15-20%.
- Expand the programs to include a program for residential Natural Gas customers.
- Increase the funding level above the \$150 million level.

Energy costs are escalating dramatically; the ability for working families to meet these high costs will be exceedingly difficult. For many low income families in these trying economic times, as well as our senior residents, this marked increase in utility costs is likely to mean choosing whether to eat or keep warm. As such, the low income residential energy conservation programs are extremely important to assist people in fragile circumstances. Any additional funding to help significantly reduce their energy consumption will lead to long term, community-wide solutions and improved lives.

Please feel free to contact me at (607) 936-3753 if you require further information.

Sincerely,



Barbara Hubbell  
Director of Community Solutions

**United Way of the Southern Tier**