

STATE OF NEW YORK

Public Service Commission

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UPCOMING LOW-INCOME ENERGY FORUM MAY 22-23

— **Workshops Focus on Energy Affordability and Low-Income Issues** —

Albany, NY—05/16/12—The New York State Public Service Commission (Commission) and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) today announced that the Low-Income Forum (LIFE) will hold a statewide conference May 22-23 in Albany, NY to help address issues confronting low-income consumers, including affordable energy efficiency programs, bill payment assistance programs and consumer protections.

“This year’s LIFE forum provides a critical path for community leaders and service providers to share essential information that can help low-income New Yorkers maintain their utility service during challenging economic times,” said Commission Chairman Garry Brown. “Energy efficiency programs play a critical role because they are the most cost-effective, and more immediate, means to reduce the burden of energy costs not only for low-income customers, but for all customers.”

Francis J. Murray, Jr., President and CEO of NYSERDA said, “Energy efficiency programs are just one way the state, under Governor Cuomo’s leadership, is assisting those residents affected most by rising energy costs. The LIFE Conference provides a much needed interactive forum to address the issues, and potential solutions, related to energy consumption and costs among low-income residents.”

The two-day LIFE forum provides an opportunity for frontline workers, advocates, and policy makers to meet and network with those who share the same commitment in helping low-income energy customers. The forum will also feature the presentation of the 2012 LIFE Achievement Awards to those unsung heroes who make a difference by helping to address the needs of low-income New Yorkers as they deal with the challenges of energy affordability.

At 14 years, LIFE is the nation's longest-running statewide dialogue on the energy needs of low-income customers, and it has built a reputation as an interactive exchange of ideas and resources. The 2012 LIFE forum will build on lessons learned in prior conferences and will feature sessions on low cost or no cost energy saving actions, options for financing energy efficiency improvements, and information on some of the resource programs that assist low-income energy customers.

The registration fee for this year's two-day conference is \$125 for those representing not-for-profit and community-based organizations and \$145 for all other registrants. The registration fee includes all conference materials, two continental breakfasts, two lunches, breaks and reception.

Visit www.lifenynews.org for more information about the 2012 LIFE statewide forum.