



Snapshot of New Jersey's Utility Assistance Programs 2023/2024 Heating Season

As New Jersey's USF/LIHEAP Hotline and a comprehensive information and referral service for all health and human service needs, NJ 211 is dedicated to helping you in every way we can.

Many individuals and families in our state are facing very difficult financial hardships. NJ 211 offers hope and help at any time of the day or night. **You are encouraged to dial "211"; 800-510-3102 or 866-240-1347, (all three options get you to us) if you need help with utility costs.**

NJ 211 call specialists will:

- provide you with the location and hours of your local application agency
- explain how the various home energy assistance programs work
- check on the status of your application once it has been filed
- help you find alternative resources if you don't qualify for the utility assistance programs presented here

Overview: Eligibility for most of the utility assistance programs in our state is based upon the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) table you see here. The second table reflects a summary of the programs that are available; what they offer; eligibility requirements; and the application process. The utility assistance section of our [website](#) offers a comprehensive description of each program, links to applications and listings of local agencies that will help you.

FFY 2022/2023 Federal Poverty and State Median Income Table with Associated Percentages for Program Eligibility					
This Table Reflects One's Annual Gross Income					
Household Size	Federal Poverty Level	60% of State Median Income Level [USF Limit]	60% of State Median Income Level [LIHEAP Limit] [Weatherization Limit]	250% of Poverty Level [Comfort Partners Limit]	400% of Poverty Level [NJ Shares Limit]
1	\$ 14,580	\$ 44,111	\$ 44,111	\$ 36,450	\$ 58,320
2	\$ 19,720	\$ 57,684	\$ 57,684	\$ 49,300	\$ 78,880
3	\$ 24,860	\$ 71,257	\$ 71,257	\$ 62,150	\$ 99,440
4	\$ 30,000	\$ 84,830	\$ 84,830	\$ 75,000	\$ 120,000
5	\$ 35,140	\$ 98,402	\$ 98,402	\$ 87,850	\$ 140,560
6	\$ 40,280	\$ 111,975	\$ 111,975	\$ 100,700	\$ 161,120
7	\$ 45,420	\$ 114,520	\$ 114,520	\$ 113,550	\$ 181,680
8	\$ 50,560	\$ 117,065	\$ 117,065	\$ 126,400	\$ 202,240
9	\$ 55,700	\$ 119,610	\$ 119,610	\$ 139,250	\$ 222,800
10	\$ 60,840	\$ 122,155	\$ 122,155	\$ 152,100	\$ 243,350
11	\$ 65,980	\$ 124,700	\$ 124,700	\$ 164,950	\$ 263,920
12	\$ 71,120	\$ 127,245	\$ 127,245	\$ 177,800	\$ 284,480

Sources: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>
Last Update: September 7, 2023

Program	What it does	Who is eligible	Application Process
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)	Helps with home heating costs and medically necessary cooling costs	- NJ resident - Those who pay for their own heat directly or through rent - Income at or below 400% FPL	Entire application process and all follow-up is handled through the application agency in your area. Applications taken from Oct. 1 - June. 30 Dial 211 or 800-510-3102
Emergency Assistance	Provides emergency fuel purchase; supplemental utility payments; limited heating repairs (all	LIHEAP clients	Contact your local application agency .

	subjected to fund availability)		
Universal Service Fund (USF)	Lowers amount you pay for gas and electricity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NJ resident - Income at or below 60% SMI - AND pay more than 3% of annual income on electric or gas (if house is heated with electric you must pay more than 6% of annual income) - Customer of one of the regulated natural gas/electric companies or a subsidiary * 	Contact your local application agency . Applications are taken at any time of the year. Dial 211 or 866-240-1347
Payment Assistance for Gas and Electric (PAGE)	Annual program provides assistance to low to moderate income NJ residents struggling to pay their electric/gas bills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -NJ resident -meet income requirements -be at least 45 days past due on utility bill and/or received disconnect notice -receive gas/electric from select providers * 	Dial 211 or 877-652-1148 Apply online ; Download application and find participating agencies and further information at AHA PAGE website or call 732-982-8710
NJ Shares	Energy assistance for middle income who do not qualify for other assistance programs; maximum grant is \$700 for heating.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -must be ineligible for LIHEAP and/or USF -income level between 200%-400% of FPL -NJ resident -in financial crisis -be behind on your bill or need fuel delivery -made gas or electric payment of \$100 or more within 90 days of applying 	Apply through Intake Agency listed at NJSHARES or call 866-657-4273
Lifeline Program	Utility assistance program that offers \$225 to persons who meet the eligibility requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -must be 65 or older or a recipient of Social Security Disability or Supplemental Security Income -AND have an annual income of less than \$42,142 if single and \$49,209 for a couple. 	Apply through the Division of Aging Services online or call 800-792-9745
Limited local resources	Provide financial assistance based upon need and funding available	Varies by program and agency	Search the NJ 2-1-1 database using the search term "utility payment assistance"
Weatherization Assistance Program	Provides free comprehensive energy conservation improvements to reduce residential heat loss and energy consumption.	-income is below 400% FPL	Apply by checking the "weatherization box" on the LIHEAP/USF application. Local weatherization agency
NJ's Clean Energy Program	Offers financial incentives, programs, and services for residential, commercial, and municipal customers to save energy, money, and the environment	Varies by offer	Go to http://nicleanenergy.com/
Individual Utility Company	Programs like deferred payments, budget plans, energy assistance plans from local providers	Varies by company	Call your utility company

* The seven regulated natural gas and electric (energy) companies in New Jersey are New Jersey Natural Gas Company, Elizabethtown Gas Company, South Jersey Gas Company, PSE&G, Rockland Electric Company, Jersey Central Power & Light and Atlantic City Electric Company.