



Snapshot of New Jersey's Utility Assistance Programs 2017/2018 Heating Season

As New Jersey's USF/LIHEAP Hotline and a comprehensive information and referral service for all health and human service needs, NJ 2-1-1 is dedicated to helping you in every way we can.

Many individuals and families in our state are facing very difficult financial hardships. NJ 2-1-1 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 2-1-1 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 2017/2018 Federal Poverty Table with Associated Percentages for Program Eligibility | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|
| This Table Reflects One's Annual Gross Income | | | | | |
| Household Size | Federal Poverty Level | 175% of Poverty Level [USF Limit] | 200% of Poverty Level [LIHEAP Limit] [Weatherization Limit] | 225% of Poverty Level [Comfort Partners Limit] | 400% of Poverty Level [NJ Shares Limit] |
| 1 | \$ 12,060 | \$ 21,105 | \$ 24,120 | \$ 27,135 | \$ 48,240 |
| 2 | \$ 16,240 | \$ 28,420 | \$ 32,480 | \$ 36,540 | \$ 64,960 |
| 3 | \$ 20,420 | \$ 35,735 | \$ 40,840 | \$ 45,945 | \$ 81,680 |
| 4 | \$ 24,600 | \$ 43,050 | \$ 49,200 | \$ 55,350 | \$ 98,400 |
| 5 | \$ 28,780 | \$ 50,365 | \$ 57,560 | \$ 64,755 | \$ 115,120 |
| 6 | \$ 32,960 | \$ 57,680 | \$ 65,920 | \$ 74,160 | \$ 131,840 |
| 7 | \$ 37,140 | \$ 64,995 | \$ 74,280 | \$ 83,565 | \$148,560 |
| 8 | \$ 41,320 | \$ 72,310 | \$ 82,640 | \$ 92,970 | \$165,280 |
| Each add'l. family member, add: | \$ 4,180 | \$ 7,315 | \$ 8,360 | \$ 9,405 | \$16,7 |

Sources: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>
Last Update: August 28, 2017

| 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 200% FPL | Entire application process and all follow-up is handled through the application agency in your area. Applications taken from Oct. 1-Apr. 30 Dial 211 or 800.510.3102 |
| Emergency Assistance | Provides emergency fuel purchase; supplemental utility payments; limited heating repairs (all subjected to fund availability) | LIHEAP clients | Contact your local application agency . |

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| Universal Service Fund (USF) | Lowers amount you pay for gas and electricity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NJ resident - Income at or below 175% FPL - 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 -have NOT received LIHEAP in the last heating season or USF in the past 6 mos. -meet income requirements -be at least 45 days past due on utility bill and/or received disconnect notice -made 2 payments of \$25 in last 6 mos. Or 1 payment of \$100 or more within past 90 days -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 |
| NJShares | Energy assistance for middle income who do not qualify for other assistance programs; maximum grant is \$700 for heating and \$500 for electric (heat with electric max is \$700) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -must be ineligible for TRUE and PAGE program -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 |
| Atlantic City Electric (ACE) Helping Hands | Available to any Atlantic City Electric (ACE) customers in a temporary crisis. The grant amount can be up to \$200 and may be combined with other energy assistance grants. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -must reside in New Jersey -be experiencing a financial crisis, such as a job loss or illness -have arrears on their electric bill -have an income level that does not exceed 400% of the Federal Poverty Level -have an active ACE residential electric account -a household may receive a grant once in a revolving twelve month period | Apply online here or call 866.657.4273 for assistance |
| Lifeline Program | Utility assistance program that offers \$225 to persons who meet the PAAD eligibility requirements or who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -must be a recipient of PAAD -must meet the eligibility of PAAD -must be a recipient of Medical Assistance to the Aged(MAA) -must be a recipient of Medical Assistance Only (MAO) -must be a recipient of the New Jersey Care | Apply through the Division of Aging Services or call 800.792.9745 |
| CITGO's Low Cost Heating Oil Program | Provides limited heating oil for free to those who qualify | -income eligibility similar to LIHEAP | Opens at the end of December; Call 877.563.4645 or visit website |
| 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 200% 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/ |
| Home Performance with ENERGY STAR (HpWES) | Assesses home for efficiency and provides financial incentives to encourage homeowner to have work completed | Varies by offer | Has special incentive savings initiatives and rebate programs for washers, refrigerators, air conditioning etc. |
| Individual Utility Company | Programs like deferred payments, budget plans, energy assistance plans | Varies by company | Call your utility company |

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| from local providers | | |
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* 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.
Updated on 8.28.17