



Snapshot of New Jersey’s Utility Assistance Programs 2018/2019 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 2018/2019 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 & Weatherization Limit]	225% of Poverty Level [Comfort Partners Limit]	400% of Poverty Level [NJ Shares Limit]
1	\$ 12,140	\$ 21,245	\$ 24,280	\$ 27,315	\$ 48,560
2	\$ 16,460	\$ 28,805	\$ 32,920	\$ 37,035	\$ 65,840
3	\$ 20,780	\$ 36,365	\$ 41,560	\$ 46,755	\$ 83,120
4	\$ 25,100	\$ 43,925	\$ 50,200	\$ 56,475	\$ 100,400
5	\$ 29,420	\$ 51,485	\$ 58,840	\$ 66,195	\$ 117,680
6	\$ 33,740	\$ 59,045	\$ 67,480	\$ 75,915	\$ 134,960
7	\$ 38,060	\$ 66,604	\$ 76,120	\$ 85,635	\$152,240
8	\$ 42,380	\$ 74,165	\$ 84,760	\$ 95,344	\$169,520
Each add'l. family member, add:	\$ 4,320	\$ 7,560	\$ 8,640	\$ 9,720	\$17,280

Sources: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>
Last Update: January 13, 2018

Program Name	What it does	Who is eligible	Application process
LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program)	Helps with home heating costs and medically necessary cooling costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NJ Resident - Those who pay for their own heat directly or through rent - Income at or below 200% FPL 	Entire application process and follow-up is handled through the application agency in your area. Applications are taken from Oct. 1 – August 31 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 .
USF (Universal Service Fund)	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
PAGE (Payment Assistance for Gas and Electric)	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 receive 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 the 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 and \$500 for electric (heat with electric max is \$700)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must be ineligible for PAGE program - Income level between 200 – 400% 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 NJ SHARES 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"> - NJ resident - Be experiencing a financial crisis (job loss, illness, etc.) - Have arrears on electric bill - Income level that does not exceed 400% of FPL - Have an active ACE 	Apply online or call 866.657.4273 for assistance

		residential electric account - Household may receive a grant once in a revolving twelve month period	
Lifeline Program	Utility assistance program that offers \$225 to persons who meet the PAAD eligibility requirements or who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI).	- Must be a recipient of PAAD - Must meet eligibility criteria 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 New Jersey Care	Apply through the Division of Aging Services or call 800.792.9745. Find out more information .
Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)	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. Find out more at your 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	Visit NJ Clean Energy website for more information.
Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program (HPwES)	Offers financial incentives on energy efficient improvement packages. Assesses the home for efficiency and provides financial incentives to encourage homeowner to have work completed.	Varies by offer	Learn more about special incentive savings initiative and rebate programs for washers, refrigerators, air conditioning, etc.
Individual Utility Companies	Programs like deferred payments, budget plans, energy assistance plans from your local providers	Varies by company	Contact your utility company for more information.

*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.

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