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 2019/2020 Federal Poverty Table with Associated Percentages for Program Eligibility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Size</th>
<th>Federal Poverty Level</th>
<th>175% of Poverty Level [USF Limit]</th>
<th>200% of Poverty Level [LIHEAP Limit] [Weatherization Limit]</th>
<th>250% of Poverty Level [Comfort Partners Limit]</th>
<th>400% of Poverty Level [NJ Shares Limit]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$12,490</td>
<td>$21,858</td>
<td>$24,980</td>
<td>$31,225</td>
<td>$49,960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$16,910</td>
<td>$29,593</td>
<td>$33,820</td>
<td>$42,275</td>
<td>$67,640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$21,330</td>
<td>$37,328</td>
<td>$42,660</td>
<td>$53,325</td>
<td>$85,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$25,750</td>
<td>$45,063</td>
<td>$51,500</td>
<td>$64,375</td>
<td>$103,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$30,170</td>
<td>$52,798</td>
<td>$60,340</td>
<td>$75,425</td>
<td>$120,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>$34,590</td>
<td>$60,533</td>
<td>$69,180</td>
<td>$86,475</td>
<td>$138,360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>$39,010</td>
<td>$68,268</td>
<td>$78,020</td>
<td>$97,525</td>
<td>$156,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>$43,430</td>
<td>$76,003</td>
<td>$86,860</td>
<td>$108,575</td>
<td>$173,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each add’l. family member, add:</td>
<td>$4,420</td>
<td>$7,735</td>
<td>$8,840</td>
<td>$11,050</td>
<td>$17,680</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines  
Last Update: September 27, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>What it does</th>
<th>Who is eligible</th>
<th>Application Process</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **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 subject to fund availability) | LIHEAP clients | Contact your local application agency. |
| **Universal Service Fund (USF)** | Lowers amount you pay for gas and electricity | - NJ resident  
- Income at or below 175% FPL | Contact your local application agency. |
| **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 | • 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 $150 or more within past 90 days  
• receive gas/electric from select providers  
| **NJShares** | Energy assistance for middle income who do not qualify for other assistance programs; maximum grant is $700 for heating | • must be ineligible for LIHEAP and/or USF  
• income level between 200%-400% of FPL  
• NJ resident  
• in financial crisis  
• be behind on their bill or need fuel delivery  
• made gas or electric payment of $100 or more within 90 days of applying  
| **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. | • 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  
| **Lifeline Program** | Utility assistance program that offers $225 to persons who meet the PAAD eligibility requirements or who receive Medical Assistance to the Aged (MAA), Medical Assistance Only (MAO) or New Jersey Care. | • must be a recipient of PAAD or eligible for PAAD  
• OR must be a recipient of Medical Assistance to the Aged (MAA), Medical Assistance Only (MAO) or New Jersey Care  
| **Limited local resources** | Provide financial assistance based upon need and funding available | Varies by program and agency  
| **Weatherization Assistance Program** | Provides free comprehensive energy conservation improvements to reduce residential heat loss and energy consumption. | • income is below 200% FPL  
| **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  
| **Home Performance with ENERGY STAR (HpwES)** | Assesses home for efficiency and provides financial incentives to encourage homeowner to have work completed | Varies by offer  
| **Individual Utility Company** | Programs like deferred payments, budget plans, energy assistance plans from local providers | Varies by 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.  

Updated on 9.30.19