



Snapshot of New Jersey's Utility Assistance Programs 2019/2020 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 2019/2020 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] | 250% of Poverty Level [Comfort Partners Limit] | 400% of Poverty Level [NJ Shares Limit] |
| 1 | \$12,490 | \$21,858 | \$24,980 | \$31,225 | \$49,960 |
| 2 | \$16,910 | \$29,593 | \$33,820 | \$42,275 | \$67,640 |
| 3 | \$21,330 | \$37,328 | \$42,660 | \$53,325 | \$85,320 |
| 4 | \$25,750 | \$45,063 | \$51,500 | \$64,375 | \$103,000 |
| 5 | \$30,170 | \$52,798 | \$60,340 | \$75,425 | \$120,680 |
| 6 | \$34,590 | \$60,533 | \$69,180 | \$86,475 | \$138,360 |
| 7 | \$39,010 | \$68,268 | \$78,020 | \$97,525 | \$156,040 |
| 8 | \$43,430 | \$76,003 | \$86,860 | \$108,575 | \$173,720 |
| Each add'l. family member, add: | \$4,420 | \$7,735 | \$8,840 | \$11,050 | \$17,680 |

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

| 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 . |
| 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 . |

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|---|---|---|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 * | <p>Applications are taken at any time of the year.</p> <p>Dial 211 or 866.240.1347</p> |
| 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 \$150 or more within past 90 days -receive gas/electric from select providers * | <p>Dial 211 or 877.652.1148</p> <p>Apply online; Download application and find participating agencies and further information at AHA PAGE website or call 732.982.8710</p> |
| NJShares | 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 | <p>Apply through Intake Agency listed at NJSHARES or call 866.657.4273</p> |
| 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 | <p>Apply online here or call 866.657.4273 for assistance</p> |
| 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. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -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 | <p>Apply through the Division of Aging Services online or call 800.792.9745</p> |
| Limited local resources | Provide financial assistance based upon need and funding available | Varies by program and agency | <p>Search the NJ 2-1-1 database using the search term "utility assistance"</p> |
| Weatherization Assistance Program | Provides free comprehensive energy conservation improvements to reduce residential heat loss and energy consumption. | -income is below 200% FPL | <p>Apply by checking the "weatherization box" on the LIHEAP/USF application. Local weatherization agency</p> |
| 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 | <p>Go to http://njcleanenergy.com/</p> |
| Home Performance with ENERGY STAR (HpwES) | Assesses home for efficiency and provides financial incentives to encourage homeowner to have work completed | Varies by offer | <p>Has special incentive savings initiatives and rebate programs for washers, refrigerators, air conditioning etc.</p> |
| Individual Utility Company | Programs like deferred payments, budget plans, energy assistance plans from local providers | Varies by company | <p>Call your utility company</p> |

* 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