



Snapshot of New Jersey's Utility Assistance Programs 2020/2021 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 2-1-1 offers hope and help at any time of the day or night. **You are encouraged to dial 2-1-1; 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 2020/2021 Federal Poverty Table with Associated Percentages for Program Eligibility					
This Table Reflects One's Annual Gross Income					
Household Size	Federal Poverty Level	185% 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	\$12,760	\$23,606	\$25,520	\$31,900	\$51,040
2	\$17,240	\$31,894	\$34,480	\$43,100	\$68,960
3	\$21,720	\$40,182	\$43,440	\$54,300	\$86,880
4	\$26,200	\$48,470	\$52,400	\$65,500	\$104,800
5	\$30,680	\$56,758	\$61,360	\$76,700	\$122,720
6	\$35,160	\$65,046	\$70,320	\$87,900	\$140,640
7	\$39,640	\$73,334	\$79,280	\$99,100	\$158,560
8	\$44,120	\$81,288	\$88,240	\$110,300	\$176,480
Each add'l. family member, add:	\$4,480	\$8,288	\$8,960	\$11,200	\$17,920

Sources: aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines
Last Update: September 29, 2020

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 2-1-1 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 185% FPL	Contact your local application agency .

		<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 2-1-1 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 2-1-1 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 	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 or call 866-657-4273 for assistance
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 must be a recipient of Social Security Disability or Supplemental Security Income -AND have an annual income of less than 28,399, if single, or less than \$34,817, if married 	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 211 database using the search term "utility 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://njcleanenergy.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 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.