

LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND

FFY 2021 FACT SHEET

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is designed to help low-income families and individuals meet home heating and medically necessary cooling costs. This year, the application period is October 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. To apply for LIHEAP, you can apply online at www.energyassistance.nj.gov or contact an authorized local community action agency or community-based organization in your area for assistance. For persons age 60 or over, or who are disabled, applications may be received and returned by mail. Other households may apply by mail at the discretion of the local agency.

To be eligible for LIHEAP benefits, the applicant household must be responsible for home heating or cooling costs, either directly or included in the rent; and have gross income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. The chart below gives specific monthly gross income maximums for FFY 2021. Persons who live in public housing and/or receive rental assistance are not eligible for assistance, unless they pay for their own heating costs directly to the fuel supplier. The amount of the LIHEAP heating benefit is determined by income, household size, fuel type, and heating region.

The medically necessary cooling assistance benefit amount will be \$200, which will be issued as a direct credit to an active electric account in our system, otherwise they will be issued as one-party check to the eligible applicant.

An eligible household that heats with natural gas or electricity may have its benefits directly forwarded to its utility company. Otherwise, in most cases eligible households directly responsible to a fuel supplier for payment of home heating costs receive a two-party check in the name of the applicant and “the fuel supplier”. Households whose heating costs are included in their rent receive a single party check made out to the eligible applicant.

Please Note: The FFY 2021 LIHEAP application is also an application for the Universal Service Fund Program (USF).

The USF is a program created by the State of New Jersey to help make natural gas and electric bills more affordable for low-income households. If you are eligible, USF can lower the amount you pay for gas and electricity. To be eligible, a household gross income must be at or below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level, (please refer to income guidelines listed below), and pay more than 3% of its annual income for electric, or more than 3% for natural gas. If a household has electric heat, it must spend more than 6% of its annual income on electricity to be eligible. For more information about USF, call: 1-800-510-3102.

For further information on LIHEAP or to locate the nearest application agency, call 1-800-510-3102. Additional information about LIHEAP and USF, including an application, is also available at www.energyassistance.nj.gov.

The 2021 Maximum Income Limits		
Household Size	HEA Monthly Gross Income	USF Monthly Gross Income
1	2127	1967
2	2873	2658
3	3620	3349
4	4367	4039
5	5113	4730
6	5860	5421
7	6607	6111
8	7353	6802
9	8100	7493
10	8847	8183
11	9072	8874
12	9257	9565
Amount for each additional member for households greater than 12	185	691

Federal Poverty Guidelines for 2021	
First Person	Each Additional Person
12760	4480