

Energy Assistance Programs Available

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps low-income people pay for winter heating costs. The amount of money a person can get depends on household income and size, fuel used, and the type of housing. LIHEAP is not intended to take care of the whole bill. It helps cover costs where the need is greatest.

To be eligible during the winter of 2008/2009, your gross annual income must be less than the amount below for your household size. The listed amounts will increase for the 2009/2010 winter.

SIZE OF HOUSEHOLD HOUSEHOLD INCOME

1	\$15,600
2	\$21,000
3	\$26,400
4	\$31,800
5	\$37,200
6	\$42,600

For family units with more than six members, add \$5,350 for each additional member. Households with income higher than these guidelines may still be eligible if they have high medical expenses.

Applications for energy assistance for people 60 and over, or for people with disabilities are accepted beginning October 1, 2008. All other applications will be accepted beginning November 3, 2008. All applications must be received by April 15, 2009, and will be accepted on a first come/first served basis.

Apply early at your local Community Action Agency. Federal funds for this program are limited. When you apply, bring proof of your income for the last 13 weeks and a copy of your heating, electric, and telephone bills. If you provide appropriate documentation when you apply, you will be told whether you are eligible and if so, for what amount. This initial determination is subject to review and depends on the availability of federal funds.

LIHEAP also provides additional temporary assistance with crisis situations that pose an immediate threat to life or health. Crisis assistance payments may be received for the repair or replacement of a furnace for a maximum of \$2,500 per household, or for the purchase of heaters, blankets or temporary shelter up to a maximum of \$200 per household from October 1 through April 15. Households can also receive assistance with the emergency delivery of propane, or the emergency reconnection of non-deliverable fuel service, up to an amount of \$300.

If you have additional questions regarding the information above, you can call the Bureau of Energy Assistance at (515) 281-0859 or the Legal Hotline for Older Iowans at 1-800-992-8161.

For additional information on the LIHEAP program, please contact the Legal Hotline for Older Iowans at 1-800-992-8161. The Legal Hotline for Older Iowans is a project of Iowa Legal Aid that is partially funded by the U.S. Administration on Aging. The Hotline is a free, confidential service for all Iowans 60 and older with questions on non-criminal legal matters.