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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Size</th>
<th>Federal Poverty Level</th>
<th>185% of Poverty Level</th>
<th>200% of Poverty Level</th>
<th>250% of Poverty Level</th>
<th>400% of Poverty Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>[USF Limit]</td>
<td>[LIHEAP Limit]</td>
<td>[Weatherization Limit]</td>
<td>[Comfort Partners Limit]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$12,760</td>
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<td>$25,520</td>
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<td>$31,894</td>
<td>$34,480</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>$81,288</td>
<td>$88,240</td>
<td>$110,300</td>
<td>$176,480</td>
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<tr>
<td>Each add’l. family member, add:</td>
<td>$4,480</td>
<td>$8,288</td>
<td>$8,960</td>
<td>$11,200</td>
<td>$17,920</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
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<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 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. |
### 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

Applications are taken at any time of the year.

Dial 2-1-1 or 866-240-1347

Apply online: Download application and find participating agencies and further information at AHA PAGE website or call 732-982-8710

### 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 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.

- must reside in New Jersey
- be experiencing a financial crisis, such as a job loss or illness
- have arrearages 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.

- 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

Go to http://njcleanenergy.com/

### 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

Has special incentive savings initiatives and rebate programs for washers, refrigerators, air conditioning etc.

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.

Go to http://njcleanenergy.com/

### Individual Utility Company

Programs like deferred payments, budget plans, energy assistance plans from local providers.

Varies by company

Call your utility company

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* 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 9.29.2020