

# Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

## 2019-2020

**LIHEAP**, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program will accept new applications beginning on **November 1, 2019**. There are two types of grants from LIHEAP that can help pay your heating utility bills: Cash and Crisis. You might be eligible for both types of LIHEAP grants depending on your situation. You can apply for LIHEAP through your county Department of Human Services office or online. More information on LIHEAP and how to apply can be found at:

<http://www.dhs.pa.gov/citizens/heatingassistanceliheap/index.htm>

- ▶ **Cash Grant:** Pays between **\$200 and \$1,000**, depending on your household income. The cash program accepts applications from **November 1, 2019 until April 12, 2020**. More will be added to your grant if your household has person(s) who are disabled, over age 60 or under age 5. The grant can be for the primary heating source (type of fuel used for heat) or secondary (other utility service needed to use heating fuel). You choose whether to apply your grant to the primary or secondary source based on your needs.

### **You qualify for a cash grant if:**

- You are a U.S. citizen or lawfully admitted alien and Pennsylvania resident;
- You meet the program income guidelines for your household size, and;
- You are responsible for heating expenses to a utility directly or indirectly through a lease. **Note:** Section-8 and public housing tenants do not qualify for LIHEAP.

- ▶ **Crisis Grant:** Available if you are without heat or in immediate danger of being without heat. The amount is in addition to your cash grant and can be up to \$600. The crisis program accepts applications from **November 1, 2019 through April 12, 2020**. Note: a crisis grant application must be processed within 48 hours, 18 hours if there is a life threatening emergency. You can get more than one grant, up to the \$600 maximum, if you have more than one crisis during the application period.

### **You qualify for a crisis grant if:**

- You meet the cash grant guidelines, and;
- Your heat was shut off before November 1<sup>st</sup> or is scheduled for shut off before December 1<sup>st</sup> or after April 1<sup>st</sup> and your cash grant is not enough to restore service or;
- You get a 'deliverable fuel' such as propane and have less than 15 days remaining supply, or;
- Your heating equipment is broken or something else is broken in your home that affects your ability to benefit from heat, such a broken window or door, and you need help to get it fixed and;
- The crisis payment, plus other money you have or can get, must resolve the crisis, meaning end the shut off or threat of shutoff or make heating equipment operable.

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### Other Sources of Help with Heating Expenses

- ▶ **Weatherization Grant**—The weatherization provides energy conservation and weatherization measures to help low-income households reduce the cost of home heating. See the following website for details:

<https://dced.pa.gov/programs/weatherization-assistance-program-wx/>

**Utility Programs:** Call your utility to apply for the services they offer:

- Penelec: 800-962-4848
- NFG: 800-365-3234
- Penn Power: 800-720-3600
- Duquesne: 888-393-7600
- Equitable: 877-577-8735
- PPL Gas: 800-358-6623

**Services available from your utility, depending on eligibility, may include:**

- ▶ **Discounts** for low-income customers through Customer Assistance Programs;
- ▶ **Usage reduction** and conservation services, and;
- ▶ **Hardship** emergency funds.

**If you apply for and are denied LIHEAP or your utility is threatening to shut off your service, call:**  
**Northwestern Legal Services**  
**9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. M – F at 1-800-665-6957**  
**Or Online Anytime at: [www.nwls.org](http://www.nwls.org)**

#### Disclaimer:

We have attempted to insure the accuracy of the information in this pamphlet at the time it was created or revised. However, the law does change, sometimes quickly and unexpectedly. Therefore, you should consult an attorney before taking or refraining from any action based on the information in this pamphlet.

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