



Getting LIHEAP in Northwest Pennsylvania

LIHEAP is the **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program**. This program helps low-income families pay their heating bills.

To receive help:

- You don't need to be on welfare
- You don't need to have an unpaid heating bill (your heat can still be on)
- You can either rent or own your home

If you are without heat before November 1st and a cash grant alone is insufficient to restore your heat you may apply for a "Crisis Exception Payment"

If you received LIHEAP last year, a postcard or flyer should have been sent to you by DHS directing you to apply online.

There are three parts of LIHEAP. You can get all three.

1. **Cash grants.** These grants are to help with your heating bill; the minimum cash grant is typically \$200.
2. **Crisis grants.** The amount of a Crisis benefit is the amount needed to resolve the home-heating emergency, subject to the minimum and maximum LIHEAP Crisis benefits allowed.

An applicant can get more than one Crisis benefit during the heating season. The Crisis benefits must be within the minimum and maximum amounts allowed under the current LIHEAP State Plan.

3. **Crisis Interface.** These grants help families insulate their houses and repair or replace heating systems to save money on heating.

To apply for a Cash or Crisis grant, go to the Erie County Assistance Office, 1316 Holland St in Erie, or apply online at www.compass.state.pa.us.

You are eligible in 2019-2020 for the Cash or Crisis grants if your yearly income before taxes is less than

It usually takes 45 days to process an application for a Cash grant.

Household Size	Yearly Income
1	\$18,735
2	\$25,365
3	\$31,995
4	\$38,625
Each additional person add	\$6,630

If you need legal assistance, please call Northwestern Legal Services at 1-800-665-6957 (toll-free), or apply online at www.nwls.org.