



Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

What is LIHEAP?

The Rhode Island Department of Human Services (DHS) is committed to providing residents with critical safety net services. As part of its mission to help all people thrive at home, at work, and in the community, DHS administers the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to support households that need help meeting their home energy needs.

LIHEAP is a federally funded program for households with financial need—especially those who pay a high proportion of their household income towards home energy costs.

Heating assistance and crisis assistance are two components that comprise this program. Besides providing a grant to help households meet their heating costs, crisis assistance grants provide financial relief for qualified households that had their heat shut off or did not have fuel delivered due to inability to pay.

You may be eligible for LIHEAP funds if . . .

To qualify for LIHEAP assistance, your household income must be at or below 60% of Rhode Island's median income Levels, which are updated each program year. You do not need to be on public assistance or have an unpaid heating bill to qualify. Assistance is available for both renters and homeowners.

How to apply?

New applicants should contact their local Community Action Agency. Representatives at your respective agency will walk you through the application process. If heating assistance from LIHEAP was received in the immediate prior year, the prospective applicant will receive a renewal application from the agency in September.

Applications are usually accepted from October 1 through May 1 every year. You can find your local agency near you by visiting: <https://www.ricommunityaction.org/>

If determined ineligible . . .

The applicant has the right to appeal a decision that denies benefits by submitting a First Appeal Request Form, available online on the [DHS LIHEAP eligibility page](#).



Did you know you can now apply online?

Scan the QR code to get started or visit your local Community Action Agency for assistance applying.

Have More Questions?

Visit our website: www.dhs.ri.gov

Call: 1-855-MY-RIDHS (1-855-697-4347) Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri, except holidays, from 8:30AM-3:00PM

Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Customer Service: 1-888-979-9939