

Public Notice: LIHEAP Block Grant Plan

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Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides heating, cooling, crisis, and weatherization assistance. States are given broad latitude under block grant funding to design and operate their own programs, under certain restrictions. The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services is seeking public comment on the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program Block Grant Plan for Federal Fiscal Year 2022, which outlines how the federal LIHEAP block grant funds will be spent in North Carolina in federal fiscal year 2021 - 2022.

The revisions include:

- Updated Federal Poverty Guidelines which are effective October 1, 2021. Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP), Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) and the Summer Cooling Program will operate on the 150% Federal Poverty Level temporarily for FY 22.
- LIEAP Heating Program will allow the priority group of households with individuals 60 or older or disabled receiving DAAS services to start applying November 1, 2021 instead of December 1st.
- Temporary Summer Cooling Program will begin July 1st – September 30th, 2022.
- The maximum benefit amount for the Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) will be increased to \$1,000 instead of \$600 temporarily for FY 22.
- Resources will not be counted temporarily for any Energy program for FY 22.

Low Income Energy Assistance (LIEAP)

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) is a federally-funded program that provides for a one-time vendor payment to help eligible households pay their heating bills.

Households including a person aged 60 or older or disabled persons receiving services through the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services are eligible to sign up for assistance from Dec. 1 – 31. All other households may apply from Jan. 1 – March 31 or until funds are exhausted.

Households that meet the following criteria may be eligible:

- Have at least one U.S. citizen or non-citizen who meets the eligibility criteria.
- Meet an income test.
- Have reserves at or below \$2,250.
- Be responsible for its heating costs.

Eligibility

The following chart describes the Low Income Energy Assistance Eligibility Requirements.

Eligibility Requirement	What's Needed	How Often
Identity	ID, Contact with someone knowledgeable of your situation.	At application
Address	Lease, rental agreement, any other shelter expenses, contact with someone knowledgeable of your situation.	At application or situation, if moving
Citizenship/ Alien Status	Verification of citizenship/alien status via Immigration and Naturalization Service.	At application
Social Security Number	Valid social security card or number.	At application
Earned Income: Wages/Self-Employment	Wage stubs, tax forms contacting employer.	At application

Unearned Income: Public Benefits/ Private Retirement Benefits/Trust, etc.	Documents from provider, award letter.	At application
Assets/Resources	Ownership and tax records - bank and court documents.	At application
Heating Expense	Copy of bills.	At application

Low-Income Energy Assistance Income Levels Based on 130% of Federal Poverty

CIP/LIEAP Q&A

How to Apply

Households including a person aged 60 or older or an individual receiving disability benefits and service through the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services are eligible to sign up for assistance from Dec. 1 – All other households may apply from Jan. 1 – March 31, or until funds are exhausted. Contact your local Department of Social Services for the application dates and for additional information on LIEAP.

Contact

For more information, please contact your local Department of Social Services or the NC Division of Social Services.