



# Snapshot of New Jersey's Utility Assistance Programs 2016/2017 Heating Season

As New Jersey's USF/LIHEAP Hotline and a comprehensive information and referral service for all health and human service needs, NJ 2-1-1 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 "211"; 800.510.3102 or 866.240.1347, (all three options get you to us) if you need help with utility costs.**

NJ 2-1-1 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.

FFY 2016/2017 Federal Poverty Table with Associated Percentages for Program Eligibility					
This Table Reflects One's Annual Gross Income					
Household Size	Federal Poverty Level	175% of Poverty Level [USF Limit]	200% of Poverty Level [LIHEAP Limit] [Weatherization Limit]	225% of Poverty Level [Comfort Partners Limit]	400% of Poverty Level [NJ Shares Limit]
1	\$ 11,880	\$ 20,790	\$ 23,760	\$ 26,730	\$ 47,520
2	\$ 16,020	\$ 28,035	\$ 32,040	\$ 36,045	\$ 64,080
3	\$ 20,160	\$ 35,280	\$ 40,320	\$ 45,360	\$ 80,640
4	\$ 24,300	\$ 42,525	\$ 48,600	\$ 54,675	\$ 97,200
5	\$ 28,440	\$ 49,770	\$ 56,880	\$ 63,990	\$ 113,760
6	\$ 32,580	\$ 57,015	\$ 65,160	\$ 73,305	\$ 130,320
7	\$ 36,730	\$ 64,278	\$ 73,460	\$ 82,643	\$146,920
8	\$ 40,890	\$ 71,558	\$ 81,780	\$ 92,003	\$163,560
Each add'l. family member, add:	\$ 4,160	\$ 7,280	\$ 8,320	\$ 9,360	\$16,640

Sources: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>  
Last Update: September 19, 2016

Program	What it does	Who is eligible	Application Process
<b>Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)</b>	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 <a href="#">application agency</a> in your area. <b>Applications taken from Oct. 1-Apr. 30</b> Dial 211 or 800.510.3102
<b>Emergency Assistance</b>	Provides emergency fuel purchase; supplemental utility payments; limited heating repairs (all subjected to fund availability)	LIHEAP clients	Contact your local <a href="#">application agency</a> .

<b>Universal Service Fund (USF)</b>	Lowers amount you pay for gas and electricity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NJ resident</li> <li>- Income at or below 175% FPL</li> <li>- AND pay more than 3% of annual income on electric or gas (if house is heated with electric you must pay more than 6% of annual income)</li> <li>- Customer of one of the regulated natural gas/electric companies or a subsidiary *</li> </ul>	Contact your local <a href="#">application agency</a> . Applications are taken at any time of the year.  Dial 211 or 866.240.1347
<b>Temporary Relief for Utility Expenses (TRUE)</b>	Annual program provides assistance to low to moderate income NJ residents struggling to pay their electric/gas bills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-NJ resident</li> <li>-have not received HEA in current season; not receiving USF benefits</li> <li>-made 2 payments of \$25 in last 6 mos (at least 1 within 15 days prior to application OR 1 payment of \$75 or more within past 90 days (\$150 if applying for gas and electric)</li> <li>-receive gas/electric from select providers *</li> </ul>	Dial 211 or 877.652.1148  <a href="#">Apply online</a> ; Download application and find <a href="#">participating agencies</a> and further information at <a href="#">AHA TRUE website</a> or call 732.982.8710
<b>Payment Assistance for Gas and Electric (PAGE)</b>	Annual program provides assistance to low to moderate income NJ residents struggling to pay their electric/gas bills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-NJ resident</li> <li>-have NOT received LIHEAP in the last heating season or USF in the past 6 mos.</li> <li>-meet <a href="#">income requirements</a></li> <li>-be at least 45 days past due on utility bill and/or received disconnect notice</li> <li>-made 2 payments of \$25 in last 6 mos. Or 1 payment of \$100 or more within past 90 days</li> <li>-receive gas/electric from select providers *</li> </ul>	Dial 211 or 877.652.1148  <a href="#">Apply online</a> ; Download application and find <a href="#">participating agencies</a> and further information at <a href="#">AHA PAGE website</a> or call 732.982.8710
<b>NJShares</b>	Energy assistance for middle income who do not qualify for other assistance programs; maximum grant is \$700 for heating and \$500 for electric (heat with electric max is \$700)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-must be ineligible for TRUE and PAGE program</li> <li>-income level between 200%-400% of FPL</li> <li>-NJ resident</li> <li>-in financial crisis</li> <li>-be behind on your bill or need fuel delivery</li> <li>-made gas or electric payment of \$100 or more within 90 days of applying</li> </ul>	Apply through Intake Agency listed at <a href="#">NJSHARES</a> or call 866.657.4273
<b>CITGO's Low Cost Heating Oil Program</b>	Provides limited heating oil for free to those who qualify	-income eligibility similar to LIHEAP	Opens at the end of December; Call 877.563.4645 or visit <a href="#">website</a>
<b>Limited local resources</b>	Provide financial assistance based upon need and funding available	Varies by program and agency	<a href="#">Search the NJ 2-1-1 database</a> using the search term "utility payment assistance"
<b>Weatherization Assistance Program</b>	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. <a href="#">Local weatherization agency</a>
<b>NJ's Clean Energy Program</b>	Offers financial incentives, programs, and services for residential, commercial, and municipal customers to save energy, money, and the environment	Varies by offer	Go to <a href="http://njcleanenergy.com/">http://njcleanenergy.com/</a>
<b>Home Performance with ENERGY STAR (HpwES)</b>	Assesses home for efficiency and provides financial incentives to encourage homeowner to have work completed	Varies by offer	Has <a href="#">special incentive savings initiatives</a> and rebate programs for washers, refrigerators, air conditioning etc.
<b>Individual Utility Company</b>	Programs like deferred payments, budget plans, energy assistance plans from local providers	Varies by company	Call your utility company

\* 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.