

Need help paying your heating bill?



For many Illinois households, energy costs place a continuing stress on the family budget. The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is designed to assist eligible low-income households pay for winter energy services. Here are some facts you may find useful:

1. LIHEAP will provide a one- time benefit to *eligible* households to be used for energy bills.
2. The amount of the payment is determined by income, household size, fuel type and geographic location.
3. An overdue bill or cut-off notice is not required, although Reconnection Assistance (RA) may be available.
4. You do not have to own your home or pay energy bills directly to be eligible for assistance.
5. Your source of fuel does not have to be natural gas or electricity in order to receive assistance.

Who is eligible?

You may be eligible to receive assistance under LIHEAP if your household's combined income is at or below the levels shown on the following chart. If you rent and your heat and or electric is included in your rent, then your rent must be greater than 30% of your income in order to be eligible to receive benefits under this program.

# of People Living in Household	Gross Income for 30 Days Prior to Application Date
1	\$1,459
2	\$1,966
3	\$2,474
4	\$2,981
5	\$3,489
6	\$3,996
7	\$4,504
8	\$5,011

(Important information continued on the other side)

How does it work?

First Step: *Application*

Call Wabash Area Development, Inc (WADI) at 262-4151 or Embarrass River Basin Agency (ERBA) at 943-2938 for an appointment. If you are homebound, special accommodations can be made to assist you in applying.

The worker who takes your application will require:

- Proof of gross income from all household members for the 30 day period prior to the application date,
- A copy of your current heat and electric bills (if you pay for your home energy directly),
- Proof of Social Security Numbers of all household members,
- If a member of your household receives TANF, you must bring their current medical card.

When can I apply?

Beginning October 1	Elderly (over 60) and Disabled
Beginning November 1	All other households

Second Step: *Notification*

The agency will determine if you are eligible based on the information provided. You will be notified of your eligibility status within 30 days. If you are eligible, you will be informed of the amount of assistance you can receive. The agency will also notify your energy provider of your participation in the program, if you have an energy bill.

Third Step: *Payment*

If you are eligible, the local agency will make the appropriate payment to your energy provider(s) on your behalf. In some instances, payment may be made directly to you.

Wabash Area Development, Inc

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Embarrass River Basin Agency

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