

2012 ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR NEW JERSEY RESIDENTS

PROGRAM NAME	ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS	BENEFIT	MORE INFORMATION
<p style="text-align: center;">Universal Service Fund</p>	<p>USF provides electric and gas credits to low-income households which:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Are income eligible (\$39,120 for a family of four); and 2) Spend more than 3% of annual income on gas or electric costs or more than 6% on electric heat. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - USF enrollment is year round - Fresh Start is a component of the USF Program whereby first time USF participants may earn forgiveness of their pre-USF energy debt by paying bills on time and in full for 12 months (customers are automatically enrolled by utility company if eligible). 	<p>Monthly credit on electric and/or gas bill. Credit amount varies based on household size, income and energy usage. Maximum annual benefit for electric and gas credits combined is \$1,800.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - USF is made possible by the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) and is administered by the Department of Community Affairs (DCA). - USF/LIHEAP applications and a list of county agencies where applications must be submitted are available at: www.energyassistance.nj.gov or call: (866) 240-1347
<p style="text-align: center;">Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LIHEAP household must be responsible for home heating or cooling costs, either directly or included in the rent and be income eligible (\$44,700 for a family of four). - Doctor's note required if applying for medically necessary cooling grant. - Applications are accepted from November 1st through April 30th of each year. 	<p>Heating grant amount varies based upon household size, income and county. Benefits for emergencies and medically necessary cooling available. Cooling benefit: \$160</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Administered by the DCA - USF/LIHEAP applications and county agencies where applications must be submitted are available at: www.energyassistance.nj.gov or call: (800)510-3102
<p style="text-align: center;">Lifeline</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must be eligible for PAAD (Pharmaceutical Assistance for the Aged and Disabled). - 65 years of age or older or 18 years of age or older and receiving Social Security Title II Disability benefits - Annual income for 2012 must be less than \$25,312 if single or less than \$31,035 if married. 	<p>\$225 annual credit on utility bill for gas and/or electric customers, or check for those whose rent includes electric or gas costs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Made possible by the BPU and administered by the Dept of Health and Senior Services - Apply with PAAD application available at: www.state.nj.us/health/ or call: (800) 792-9745

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TRUE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An assistance program for low to moderate income gas and electric customers who are experiencing a temporary financial crisis and have a notice of overdue payment from their utility company. - Applicants must have connected service, not have received USF or HEA in the past 12 months and have a history of making regular utility payments. - TRUE income floor is \$1 over HEA income ceiling and TRUE income ceiling is median income of NJ (\$44,712 - \$100,252 for a family of four). 	Maximum grant of \$750 per commodity in a one year period and amount is based on how much customer owes utility company to avoid discontinuation of service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TRUE is made possible by the Board of Public Utilities and is administered by the Affordable Housing Alliance. - To apply on line or print an application go to: www.ahanjtrue.org or call: (732) 982-8710
New Jersey SHARES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NJSHARES is a non-profit providing assistance for households who need temporary help in paying their energy bills due to a financial crisis. Must have a history of good-faith payments on energy bills and not be eligible for welfare or other energy assistance. - During the HEA season, HEA income ceiling is SHARES income floor and outside of HEA season (May 1st – October 31st) USF income ceiling is SHARES income floor. SHARES income ceiling is 400% federal poverty level. (\$39,121/\$44,701 - \$92,196 for family of four). 	Maximum of \$700 grant for heating grant and up to \$300 for non-heating electric.	For more information, go to: www.njshares.org or call: (866) 657-4273
WAP & Comfort Partners	The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and Comfort Partners (gas/el heat only) are two weatherization programs helping make energy bills more affordable. The income limit for WAP for 2012/2013 is \$46,100 for a family of four (administered by DCA). The income limit for Comfort Partners for 2012 is \$51,863 for a family of four (made possible by BPU).	Includes a free home energy audit and installation of free energy efficiency measures which may include appliance replacement.	To apply for WAP use the USF/LIHEAP application available at: www.energyassistance.nj.gov For Comfort Partners call: (888) 773-8326 or go to www.njcleanenergy.com
Winter Termination Program	WTP protects residential customers from disconnection of electric and natural gas from November 15 th - March 15 th each year if they participate in one of several assistance programs (including USF, HEA and Lifeline) or are unable to pay their utility bills because of circumstances beyond their control.	Protection from service disconnection	Call utility to request WTP protection. If in danger of shut off, please contact the Board of Public Utilities at: (800) 624-0241 or www.nj.gov/bpu/assistance/

**NJ Energy Assistance Programs:
Costs and Income Limits**

Program	Program Cost 2011-2012	Annual Income Limit/Range Household of 2	Income Limit/Range Household of 4
USF	\$243M	\$25,752	\$39,120
LIHEAP	\$136M*	\$29,424	\$44,700
Lifeline	\$70.8M	If single less than: \$25,312 If married less than: \$31,035	N/A
TRUE	\$7.6M	\$29,436-\$67,967	\$44,712 - \$100,252

* Total HEA funding provided to NJ