

**LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND
FFY 2012 FACT SHEET**

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is designed to help low-income families and individuals meet home heating and medically necessary cooling costs. This year, the application period is November 1, 2011 to April 30, 2012. To apply for LIHEAP, contact the authorized local community action agency or community based organization in your area. A list of these agencies is enclosed. For persons age 60 or over, or who are disabled, applications may be received and returned by mail. Other households may apply by mail at the discretion of the local agency.

To be eligible for LIHEAP benefits, the applicant household must be responsible for home heating or cooling costs, either directly or included in the rent; and have gross income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. The chart below gives specific monthly gross income maximums for FFY 2012. Persons who live in public housing and/or receive rental assistance are not eligible unless they pay for their own heating/cooling costs directly to the fuel supplier. The amount of the LIHEAP heating benefit is determined by income, household size, fuel type, and heating region. This year, the medically necessary cooling assistance benefit is set at \$160,

An eligible household that heats with natural gas or electricity may have its benefits directly forwarded to its utility company. Otherwise, in most cases eligible households directly responsible to a fuel supplier for payment of home heating costs receive a two-party check in the name of the applicant and the fuel supplier. Households whose heating costs are included in their rent receive a single party check made out to the eligible applicant. A household receiving medically necessary cooling benefits will have the funds applied directly to the electric utility account of the applicant, if they have no account, funds will be issued as a one party check to the applicant.

Please Note: The FFY 2012 LIHEAP application is also an application for the Universal Service Fund Program (USF). You apply for two benefit programs at the same time. USF is a program created by the State of New Jersey to help make natural gas and electric bills more affordable for low-income households. If you are eligible, USF can lower the amount you pay for gas and electricity. To be eligible, a household gross income must be at or below 175% of the Federal Poverty Level, (please refer to income guidelines listed below), and pay more than 3% of its annual income for electric, or more than 3% for natural gas. If a household has electric heat, it must spend more than 6% of its annual income on electricity to be eligible. For more information about USF, call: 1-866-240-1347.

For further information on LIHEAP or to locate the nearest application agency, call 1-800-510-3102. Additional information about LIHEAP and USF, including an application, is also available at www.energyassistance.nj.gov

LIHEAP

MAXIMUM MONTHLY GROSS INCOME ELIGIBILITY
LEVELS - FFY 2012

Household Size Monthly Gross Income

1	\$1,815
2	\$2,452
3	\$3,089
4	\$3,725
5	\$4,362
6	\$4,999
7	\$5,635
8	\$6,272
9	\$6,909
10	\$7,545
11	\$8,182
12	\$8,818

Note: To determine eligibility for household sizes greater than 12, add \$153 for each additional member.

USF

MAXIMUM MONTHLY GROSS INCOME ELIGIBILITY
LEVELS - FFY 2012

Household Size

1	\$1,589
2	\$2,146
3	\$2,703
4	\$3,260
5	\$3,817
6	\$4,374
7	\$4,931
8	\$5,488
9	\$6,045
10	\$6,602
11	\$7,159
12	\$7,716

Note: To determine eligibility for household sizes greater than 12, add \$557 for each additional member.