



Press Release

For Release: Immediate
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Berkshire Gas Issues Energy Assistance Reminder

With the onset of the heating season, it is important that low-income and elderly customers apply now for assistance with their winter energy bills. Applications are currently being taken for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) by local community action agencies.

LIHEAP is federally funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and provides eligible low-income households with help in paying winter heating bills. The program is available to homeowners/landlords and renters, and covers the primary source of heat. Special provisions are made for those households whose heat is included in their rent and those living in subsidized housing.

Program eligibility and fixed benefit amounts are determined by family size and gross annual household income. An additional benefit is available to eligible households having a high energy burden. Payments are made directly to oil, propane, wood, coal, gas or electric utilities and are applied to billing between November 1 and March 30. LIHEAP is an assistance program and is not intended to cover the entire annual cost of winter home heating.

Local administering agencies determine household eligibility based on gross annualized income and the number of members in the household. Households with incomes up to 200% of the federal poverty level, not to exceed 60% of state median income, are eligible.

To apply for LIHEAP assistance, please contact your local community action agency.

In Berkshire County:

Berkshire Community Action Council, Inc. (BCAC)
1531 East St., Pittsfield, MA 02101
(413) 445-5671 – Pittsfield
1-866-216-6100 - Toll Free

In Franklin and Hampshire Counties:

Community Action of the Franklin Hampshire &
No. Quabbin Regions, Inc.
377 Main St., Greenfield, MA 01301
(413) 774-2310
1-800-370-0940 - Toll Free