

LIEAP

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The low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) pays part of your winter energy bills if you meet eligibility requirements. Most utility companies offer LIEAP customers discounts on your bill.

The Weatherization Program helps you to improve the heating efficiency of your home and therefore reduce your energy use.

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Eligibility is based on your income levels and assets. You can apply for LIEAP or Weatherization regardless if you are a homeowner or renter.

If you or your household receives benefits from Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Program, you may qualify automatically for either program.

You must not make more than 175% of the federal poverty level.

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The low Income Energy Assistance and Weatherization Program application is available during the heating season, which runs from October 1st – April 30th of each year.

You can apply for weatherization assistance or for help in an emergency situation with a furnace or water heater at any time during the year.

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To apply for either program you can contact your local energy assistance eligibility office.

If you're not sure where your local office is, you can find out where to apply for energy assistance by contacting the Montana Citizen's Advocate toll-free at 1-800-332-2272.

After you apply for weatherization and/or LIEAP, you will be sent a letter of notification telling you whether you're eligible for assistance and what benefits you may expect to receive.

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Once you're approved for weatherization assistance you are ranked according to your degree of need and placed in a "priority group." Special priority is given to older adults and disabled individuals. If your application is approved but you're not in a priority group and don't receive assistance within a year of your application date - PLEASE REAPPLY.

A trained energy auditor will set up a time with you so the two of you can discuss your home's needs for weatherization materials. The auditor will determine the most cost-effective weatherization measures for your home.

Weatherization workers may not be able to install all the materials you need, but they'll do the most important and in some cases it may not be the best "bang for the buck" to install any weatherization measures.

When your home is scheduled for weatherization work, a crew or independent contractor will come to do the installation in your home. Once the work is completed, you will be asked to sign a statement indicating that you believe the work was done and to your satisfaction.

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If you are eligible for LIEAP, the payment amount is figured according to:

- your household income;
- the size and type of your home; and

- the kind and cost of fuel used to heat your home.

Most often, payments are made directly to your utility company or fuel supplier.

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For more information or to download an application form, click on the link listed on the website.