

Do you know someone having trouble paying their energy bills? Let them know help is available.

In challenging economic times, there are customers who may need assistance in paying their natural gas bills. Non-profit organizations and federal, state and local agencies offer a variety of programs to assist qualified individuals.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

LIHEAP helps eligible customers with heating costs and may cover the repair or replacement of heating equipment expenses. Eligibility is based on household size and income. Even if your heat is included in your rent, you may qualify. LIHEAP will take applications from October through April.

Note that if you qualified for LIHEAP last year, you must reapply by submitting the state recertification form you have or will receive in the mail, along with all required documents, to your local agency. Call toll-free **800.510.3102** or visit energyassistance.nj.gov for more information.

Universal Service Fund (USF)

USF provides monthly credits on your utility bill if it has been determined that your energy bills exceed a certain percentage of your household annual income. You could qualify for up to \$1,800 each year. Applications can be filed any time of the year. Call toll-free **800.510.3102** or visit energyassistance.nj.gov for more information.

USF Fresh Start

This is an automatic enrollment for first-time USF customers whose past-due amount is greater than \$60. You are required to only pay your current bill on time every month for 12 months, and your past-due balance will be completely erased. No need to apply; we will send you a letter if you are eligible. Call toll-free **800.510.3102** or visit energyassistance.nj.gov for more information.

PAGE Grant

The PAGE Grant is an annual assistance program designed to assist low-to-moderate income households who are experiencing economic hardship and are struggling to pay their energy bills. The PAGE Grant benefits homeowners and renters who have not received USF in the past 6 months and have not received LIHEAP in the last heating season. Applicants must also be facing a crisis situation that includes a documented notice of overdue payment for gas, and have a past history of making regular payments towards their utility bills. Call **855.465.8783** or visit njpoweron.org for more information.

New Jersey Comfort Partners™

This program provides free home energy analysis and education as well as weatherization measures. Eligibility is based on income. Call **800.915.8309** or visit njcleanenergy.com for more information.

Lifeline Credit Program

Lifeline provides an annual grant – \$112.50 each for natural gas and electric bills – for seniors 65 and older who meet the income requirements and/or adults over 18 years of age receiving Social Security Disability. This money is credited directly to your account and you must fill out an application each year to see if you qualify. Call toll-free **800.792.9745** or visit state.nj.us/humanservices for more information.

Warm Neighbors

This energy assistance program provides a one-time grant toward your gas heating bill for customers who face temporary financial hardships from unemployment or family crisis. Warm Neighbors also offers a one-time subsidy for eligible veterans that receive LIHEAP assistance.

To Qualify

Persons must meet the program guidelines. Check with one of our agency partners for more information on qualification.

Agency Partners

- PRAB serving Middlesex County **732.828.4510**
- PROCEED serving Union County **908.351.7727**
- NORWESCAP serving all other counties **908.454.4778**

To Contribute

Elizabethtown Gas customers can help others in need with their heating bills by adding \$1, \$2, \$5, \$10, \$15 or \$20 dollars to their gas payment.

NJ Shares

This program provides a one-time grant for persons in a temporary financial crisis who exceed the income guidelines for other energy assistance programs. For more information, call **866.657.4273** or visit njshares.org.