

Funding For Energy Bills

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity encourages families in need to apply for \$300 million in funding for energy bill assistance through the Help Illinois Families program. All families who meet the criteria and provide required documentation are eligible to receive bill assistance for natural gas, propane, and electricity through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Families can apply by visiting helpillinoisfamilies.com or call 1-833-711-0374 for assistance.

LIHEAP provides one-time payments directly to energy service providers on behalf of recipients. While the amount of support varies based on the needs of individual families, last year's LIHEAP recipients received an average of \$1,330 per household. All families who meet the qualifications and provide proper documentation will receive support until funding is exhausted. Families who earn up to two-times the federal poverty level are eligible.

The State of Illinois offers various programs to support eligible low-income families with utility assistance. Programs for eligible families include: One-time Direct Vendor Payment, Crisis/Reconnection Assistance, Furnace Assistance, Home Weatherization Program, and Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program: The Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program.