



Rhode Island Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
Comprehensive Community Action Program

Important Notice Regarding FFY 2026 LIHEAP Heating Assistance

Dear Community Member,

Enclosed is your application for the **Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2026 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**.

We want to let you know of several important changes this heating season due to anticipated changes in federal funding levels and timing:

1. **Vendors will begin to be notified of grants on December 1, 2025.**
 - In previous years, agencies start sending grant notifications to vendors on November 1. However, this year, the process will begin December 1 due to changes at the federal government.
2. **Grant amounts will be smaller than in prior years.**
 - This includes both **Primary Grants** and **Crisis Assistance**. **This means funding is limited pending any unforeseen awards to the LIHEAP fund.**
3. **The last day to submit a LIHEAP application will be April 15, 2026.**
 - While LIHEAP helps people pay for heating, it is not an entitlement program and funding is capped by appropriations set by Congress. This means households should apply at the start of the LIHEAP application window if they are relying on LIHEAP this heating season.

We understand that many Rhode Islanders rely on LIHEAP to help heat their homes. While we remain committed to supporting as many households as possible, we want to be transparent about these changes and encourage you to explore all available energy-related assistance programs:

- **A 25% discount on your electric and/or gas bill is STILL available to RI Energy customers.**
 - To receive this discount, **the utility account must be in the LIHEAP applicant's name.**
 - If your account is in another household member's name, we recommend contacting RI Energy to update the account holder information and update your application with our agency.
- **RI Energy has payment plans that may be available to you** to help manage overdue or high utility bills.
- **The opportunity to apply for Weatherization services**, which may help lower energy costs and improve home efficiency.
 - **Eligibility for weatherization** is based on additional program guidelines and available funding, but your income qualification allows you to begin the screening process if interested.

If you need help completing your application or have questions about your eligibility for LIHEAP, please contact your local Community Action Program. Additional information about LIHEAP can be found at [DHS.RI.GOV](https://dhs.ri.gov) where you will find an online LIHEAP application and information about eligibility, programs, services, and supports.

To find the Community Action Agency closest to you to apply for LIHEAP:
<https://www.ricommunityaction.org/find-your-community-action-agency/>

For information about other DHS Programs and Services: 1-855-MY-RI-DHS (1-855-697-4347).