

HEATING HELP: Heating Assistance & Energy Efficiency Programs

LIHEAP provides eligible households with help in paying a portion of their winter heating bills. The program is crucial not only to help pay for the rising cost of heat during our cold New England winters, but also to ensure safety and good health. Many families facing disproportionately high energy costs are forced to make household budget trade-offs that jeopardize children's health, including choosing heat over food or health care.

Heating Assistance recipients are also eligible for additional energy-saving programs including Weatherization, a program that helps make the home more efficient and the heating more effective. Recipients are also connected to a variety of other services that help ease the burden of energy cost.



FY19 Snapshot

Who we served



≈160,000 households served



35% include children under 18



47% include elderly (60+)



46% have earned income



54% access food stamps

Many were saved from being without heat



**Prevented Emergencies for
69,664 households**



**Restored Heat for +4,800
Households**

People mainly heat their homes with Natural Gas (55%), Oil (25%) and Electric (11%).

Fuel Assistance (LIHEAP) is a federally-funded program through the Office of Community Services (OCS), Division of Energy Assistance (DEA) and managed in MA by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). In FY20, the program will benefit from an estimated \$136M in federal resources and \$11M in state resources. In addition, MA receives more than \$116M combined from federal and investor-owned utility companies for energy conservation and heating programs to assist +20,000 households. The program is provided by a network of 22 community-based organizations including 19 Community Action Agencies, the City of Cambridge, and the New England Farm Workers Council.

Fiscal Year 2020
 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
 Income Eligibility and Benefit Levels

Family Size (# of people in the household)	100% of Federal Poverty Level	125% of Federal Poverty Level	150% of Federal Poverty Level	175% of Federal Poverty Level	200% of Federal Poverty Level	60% of Estimated State Median Income
1	\$ 12,490	\$ 15,613	\$ 18,735	\$ 21,858	\$ 24,980	\$ 37,360
2	\$ 16,910	\$ 21,138	\$ 25,365	\$ 29,593	\$ 33,820	\$ 48,855
3	\$ 21,330	\$ 26,663	\$ 31,995	\$ 37,328	\$ 42,660	\$ 60,351
4	\$ 25,750	\$ 32,188	\$ 38,625	\$ 45,063	\$ 51,500	\$ 71,846
5	\$ 30,170	\$ 37,713	\$ 45,255	\$ 52,798	\$ 60,340	\$ 83,341
6	\$ 34,590	\$ 43,238	\$ 51,885	\$ 60,533	\$ 69,180	\$ 94,837
7	\$ 39,010	\$ 48,763	\$ 58,515	\$ 68,268	\$ 78,020	\$ 96,992
8	\$ 43,430	\$ 54,288	\$ 65,145	\$ 76,003	\$ 86,860	\$ 99,147
9	\$ 47,850	\$ 59,813	\$ 71,775	\$ 83,738	\$ 95,700	\$ 101,303
10	\$ 52,270	\$ 65,338	\$ 78,405	\$ 91,473	\$ 103,458	\$ 103,458
11	\$ 56,690	\$ 70,863	\$ 85,035	\$ 99,208	\$ 105,614	\$ 105,614
12	\$ 61,110	\$ 76,388	\$ 91,665	\$ 106,943	\$ 107,769	\$ 107,769
13	\$ 65,530	\$ 81,913	\$ 98,295	\$ 109,924	\$ 109,924	\$ 109,924
14	\$ 69,950	\$ 87,438	\$ 104,925	\$ 112,080	\$ 112,080	\$ 112,080
15	\$ 74,370	\$ 92,963	\$ 111,555	\$ 114,235	\$ 114,235	\$ 114,235
16	\$ 78,790	\$ 98,488	\$ 118,185	\$ 118,185	\$ 118,185	\$ 118,185
17	\$ 83,210	\$ 104,013	\$ 124,815	\$ 124,815	\$ 124,815	\$ 124,815
Homeowners and Non-Subsidized Housing Tenants						
Deliverable Fuel (Oil, Propane, Kerosene & Other)	\$1,140	\$1,003	\$883	\$777	\$777	\$664
Utility and Heat-Included-in-Rent	\$905	\$796	\$701	\$617	\$617	\$554
High Energy Cost Supplement	\$200	\$180	\$160	\$140	\$140	\$120
Subsidized Housing Tenants						
Deliverable Fuel (Oil, Propane, Kerosene & Other)	\$800	\$700	\$620	\$545	\$545	\$484
Utility and Heat-Included-in-Rent	\$635	\$555	\$490	\$430	\$430	\$387
High Energy Cost Supplement	\$200	\$180	\$160	\$140	\$140	\$120
High Energy Cost Supplement (HECS) Thresholds						
Heating Oil & Propane:	\$1,651		Natural Gas:	\$1,041	Other:	\$1,302
Kerosene:	\$1,305		Electricity:	\$1,655		

Note: Contact DHCD to determine eligibility for a family of 18 and above.

Sources (Income Level): "Annual Update of the HHS Poverty Guidelines, *Federal Register* 84 No. 22 (1 Feb 2019): 1167-1168 and "State Median Income Estimates", USHHS, OCS, DEA, *LIHEAP-IM-2019-02*

The **Benefit Amount** awarded to eligible households is based on several household factors reflected on this chart. Those include the number of people in a household, their gross income, the energy source, and the housing situation.

The **High Energy Cost Supplement** is an additional benefit provided only to qualifying, eligible LIHEAP households whose previous year's heating source costs exceed the above listed HECS thresholds.

10/25/2019

Visit www.heatinghelpma.org for more information.