

NORTHWESTERN ILLINOIS COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY  
ANNOUNCES THE START OF THE PY22 ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

**Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency, as administrator of the Home Energy Assistance Program in Stephenson and Jo Daviess Counties, is pleased to announce that funds are available to assist income-eligible households with their natural gas, propane, and electric bills, and LIHEAP eligible homeowners with furnace assistance.**

The program will begin September 1, 2021 for all income-eligible households. Applications will be taken on a first-come first-served basis through May 31, 2022. There will be no priority groups this program year. All households in need are encouraged to apply. Propane customers are encouraged to apply when the program opens in September to take advantage of lower propane prices.

Applicants may apply for a DVP payment or the PIPP program. The Direct Vendor Payment (DVP) provides a one-time benefit payment for income eligible households to gas or propane and electric utilities and for reconnection assistance.

Applicants with ComEd and /or Nicor Gas as utility providers may have the option of choosing the Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) instead of the DVP. The PIPP program is a bill payment program that assists eligible customers by paying a monthly state benefit while the customer pays a monthly payment based on a percentage of their household income. PIPP applications will be taken on a first-come first served basis until March 31, 2022 or until NICAA has reached maximum capacity of households for the program.

**Please call the office at 815-232-3141 or 800-883-1111 between 8:00a.m. to 3:30p.m. to receive an application packet. Completed application packets and documents must be submitted by mail, email, drop box, or fax. Limited appointments for special needs may be made, depending on current conditions.**

**INCOME GUIDELINES**

| <u>Family Size</u> | <u>30 Day Income</u> | <u>Family Size</u> |         |
|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------|
| 1                  | \$2,147              | 6                  | \$5,930 |
| 2                  | \$2,903              | 7                  | \$6,590 |
| 3                  | \$3,660              | 8                  | \$6,737 |
| 4                  | \$4,417              | 9                  | \$6,883 |
| 5                  | \$5,173              | 10                 | \$7,029 |

For more than 10 household members, add \$568 for each one.

**\*\* To submit an application, you MUST submit ALL of the required documents. \*\***

- Proof of Social Security numbers or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) for all household members. Individuals without an SSN or ITIN can still apply and NICAA will advise
- Proof of all gross income for all household members for 30 days prior and including the application date such as pay check stubs, SSA/SSI/SSD income, pension/retirement statements, unemployment reports, child support, TANF/AABD/Township GA assistance, self-employment reports and proof of zero income.
- Complete current heat and electric bills issued within the last 30 days.
- Copy of current lease if any utilities are included in the rent payment

**Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency**  
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