

NORTHWESTERN ILLINOIS COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY
PY24 ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)

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 through the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to assist income-eligible households with their natural gas, propane and/or electric bills and furnace assistance for inoperable heating systems.

The program will begin taking applications on Monday, **October 2, 2023**, for income eligible seniors aged 60 and over, the disabled and families with children 5 years of age and under.

On Wednesday, November 1, 2023, income eligible households that are disconnected from their utilities, have a disconnection notice, or have less than 25% in their propane tank can start applying.

On Friday, December 1, 2023, all other income eligible households can start applying.

Applications for LIHEAP assistance will be accepted until August 15, 2024. Households that receive a one-time benefit may return during this period for a Reconnection Assistance or Furnace Assistance benefit.

Applicants may apply for Direct Vendor Payments (DVP), which provides a one-time benefit payment for income eligible homeowners and renters to gas or propane and/or electric vendors to help with home utility bills and for reconnection assistance. Households must be at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines listed below to receive a benefit from LIHEAP.

INCOME GUIDELINE

Family Size	30 Day Income	For more than 11 household members, please add \$643 for each additional person
1	\$2,430	
2	\$3,287	
3	\$4,143	
4	\$5,000	
5	\$5,857	

Please call the Freeport office at 815-232-3141 or Toll Free at 800-883-1111 to receive information on how to receive a pre-application packet. Completed pre-application packets and required documents listed below may be submitted for processing by mail, email, drop box or fax. Appointments for special needs will be made.

**** To apply, 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 paycheck 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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