



27 S. State Ave, Ste 102
 Freeport, IL
 (815) 232-3141
 www.NICAA.org



Illinois Natural Gas Low-Income Discount Rates

What are the Low-Income Discount Rates? The Low-Income Discount Rates provide a monthly discount on your Nicor Natural Gas bill if you qualify for LIHEAP.

What will I receive if I am eligible for the Low-Income Discount Rates? The benefit you receive depends on your income level. Discounts will be provided in five tiers, based on your household's income as a percentage of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). When you complete a Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) application, your Community Action Agency will calculate your income level and determine your discount tier. You will receive a LIHEAP benefit like in previous years, but you will also receive a discount on your bill each month, as shown in the table below.

Low-Income Discount Rates – Natural Gas Discounts					
Nicor Discount	Tier 1 0-50% FPL	Tier 2 51%-100%	Tier 3 101%-150%	Tier 4 151%-200%	Tier 5 201%-300%
	75%	55%	25%	10%	5%

How do I qualify for the Low-Income Discount Rates? To qualify for tier 1 to 4 discounts, you must apply and be approved for LIHEAP. For tier 5, you can self-declare your eligibility directly with Nicor. If you apply for LIHEAP and are eligible, your Community Action Agency will notify Nicor, and your discount will appear on the next billing cycle. If you received a LIHEAP benefit between October 1, 2023, and August 15, 2024, you will automatically receive a discount starting with your October 2024 billing cycle.

Do I have to reapply for LIHEAP each year to receive the Low-Income Discount Rate? When you are approved for a Low-Income Discount Rate, you will be eligible for that LIHEAP program year and the next LIHEAP program year. Please apply for LIHEAP every year to ensure your household will receive the greatest benefit and maintain eligibility for the discount rate.

Why are the Low-Income Discount Rates not offered statewide? As of today, the discount rates apply only to the large Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) regulated gas utilities, but the ICC encouraged smaller, regulated electric and gas utilities to offer discounts in a December 2022 report filed with the General Assembly.

Can I also get a discount on my electricity? Currently, the Low-Income Discount Rates only apply to the natural gas part of your bill and only if you are a customer of Ameren, Nicor, North Shore, or Peoples. ComEd has filed a discount rate proposal with the ICC that will be ruled on in 2025.