



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity



PY25 HOME 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 **October 1, 2024** for older adults (60 years +), individuals receiving disability benefits, families with children age of five years or younger and households that are disconnected from their utilities, have a disconnection notice or have less than 25% in their propane tank. All other income eligible households can start applying **November 1, 2024**. Applications will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis through **August 15, 2025**, or until funding is exhausted.

Households must be at or below 200% of the federal poverty level to receive a benefit from LIHEAP. The 30-day income guidelines for LIHEAP are based on Federal Poverty Guidelines, State Median Income and the number of persons living in the household. 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.

INCOME GUIDELINE		Go to liheapillinois.com to know income limits for households with 5 members and more.
Family Size	30 Day Income	
1	\$2,510	
2	\$3,407	
3	\$4,303	
4	\$5,200	

**** To apply, you MUST submit ALL of the required documents. ****

- Proof of gross income from all household members for the prior 30-day period beginning with the date of application.
- For all customers applying for LIHEAP, proof of Social Security Card or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) for all household members. Individuals without a Social Security Card or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number can still apply and NICAA will advise accordingly.
- A full copy of current heat and electric bills (front & back) issued within the last 30 days.
- A copy of full rental agreement (if renting) and utilities are included in the rent.
- Other documents may be needed based on your household situation.

Beginning October 1, 2024 income eligible LIHEAP customers of Ameren Illinois, Nicor Gas, North Shore Gas and Peoples Gas will receive a monthly discount on their natural gas bill through the new Low Income Discount Rates. Visit liheapillinois.com or www.nicaa.org to know more details.

Please call the NICAA Main Office at 815-232-3141 or Toll Free at 800-883-1111 to receive information on how to receive an application packet. Completed application packets and required documents listed below may be submitted for processing by mail, email, drop box or fax. Appointments for special circumstances can be made.



NICAA 27 S. State Ave., Suite 102, Freeport, IL 61032
Phone: 815-232-3141 or 800-883-1111 Website: www.nicaa.org

