Dear Friend:

The Mercer County Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Universal Service Fund (USF) are administered by the County Housing and Community Development Office. Funds for the programs are provided through grants awarded by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

The goal of LIHEAP and USF is to help pay the winter heating bills and medically necessary cooling costs of low-income and elderly people. During extreme weather conditions, people living in poverty and low-income elderly should not have to choose between buying fuel to heat or cool their homes and buying food for themselves and their families. LIHEAP and USF assistance clearly helps the people who need help the most.

If you are interested in participating in LIHEAP, I invite you to contact the Mercer County Office of Housing & Community Development at (609) 989-6858 to determine your eligibility to receive assistance.

Sincerely,

Brian M. Hughes, County Executive
LIHEAP/USF 2020-2021 Program Year

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is designed to help low-income families and individuals meet home heating and medically necessary cooling costs. This year, the application period is October 1, 2020 to July 31, 2021. To apply for LIHEAP, contact the Mercer County Housing and Community Development Office at (609) 989-6959 or (609) 989-6858. For persons age 60 or over, or who are disabled, applications may be received and returned by mail. Households may also apply in person at 640 South Broad Street, Room 106, Trenton, New Jersey.

To be eligible for LIHEAP benefits, the applicant household must be responsible for home heating or cooling costs, either directly or included in the rent; and have gross income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. The chart provided gives specific monthly gross income maximums for FFY 2021. Persons who live in public housing and/or receive rental assistance are not eligible unless they pay for their own heating/cooling costs directly to the fuel supplier. The amount of the LIHEAP heating benefit is determined by income, household size, fuel type, and heating region. This year, the medically necessary cooling assistance benefit is estimated at $200.

An eligible household that heats with natural gas or electricity may have its benefits directly forwarded to its utility company. Otherwise, in most cases eligible households directly responsible to a fuel supplier for payment of home heating costs receives a two-party check in the name of the applicant and the fuel supplier. Households whose heating costs are included in their rent receive a single party check made out to the eligible applicant. A household receiving medically necessary cooling benefits also receives a single party check.

The following documentation is required when applying:

- Social security cards for all household members.
- Proof of income—pay stubs, W2’s, social security statement, pension statement, general assistance etc.
- Proof of Ownership—Deed or tax bill statement.
- Renters—Lease agreement (if no lease, landlord must complete a form that will be provided).
- Complete Utility bill - gas, electric, or oil receipt.
- Cooling assistance - Doctor’s note stating medical condition requires air conditioning.

Eligibility Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Income Limits</th>
<th>1 person</th>
<th>2 person</th>
<th>3 person</th>
<th>4 person</th>
<th>5 person</th>
<th>6 person</th>
<th>7 person</th>
<th>8 person</th>
<th>9 person</th>
<th>10 person</th>
<th>11 person</th>
<th>12 person</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USHOF Household Income Limits</td>
<td>$1,967</td>
<td>$2,658</td>
<td>$3,349</td>
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<td>$6,111</td>
<td>$6,802</td>
<td>$7,493</td>
<td>$8,183</td>
<td>$8,874</td>
<td>$9,567</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIHEAP Household Income Limits</td>
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<td>$2,873</td>
<td>$3,620</td>
<td>$4,367</td>
<td>$5,113</td>
<td>$5,860</td>
<td>$6,607</td>
<td>$6,802</td>
<td>$7,493</td>
<td>$8,183</td>
<td>$8,874</td>
<td>$9,567</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Federal Poverty Guidelines for 2021

$12,760 is granted for the first person and an additional $4,480 for each additional person.

TANF & Food Stamp Recipients

Please check with your caseworker regarding the automatic benefit application. Clients who received heating/cooling assistance the previous year will only be required to complete a recertification form. Recertification forms are annually mailed at the beginning of the heating season (October 1). Recertification forms can also be obtained from the Mercer County Housing office.

Additional Utility Assistance Agencies

Arm in Arm (formerly Crisis Ministry)
123 E. Hanover Street - Trenton
(609) 396-9355
61 Nassau Street - Princeton
(609) 921-2135

Mount Carmel Guild
73 N. Clinton Avenue - Trenton
(609) 392-2161

United Progress Inc. (UPI)
162 W. State Street - Trenton
(609) 392-2161

Catholic Charities
132 N. Warren Street - Trenton
(609) 394-8847

HomeFront
1880 Princeton Avenue - Lawrence
(609) 989-9417

NJ Shares 1-866-NJSHARES (657-4273)

NJ Lifeline Credit Program 1-800-792-9745
TRUE & PAGE Programs (732) 982-8710

PSE&G Equal Payment Plan (EPP) 1-888-275-PSEG (7734)

For additional information contact:
Mercer County Housing Office:
640 South Broad Street, Room 106
Trenton, New Jersey
(609) 989-6959 main
(609) 989-0306 fax
mercercounty.org