

Erie County 2018-19 Home Energy Assistance Program

HEAP is federally funded assistance with home heating costs and energy conservation for eligible households. Program components include benefit assistance for heat and electricity, Heating Equipment Repair or Replacement (HERR), weatherization referral, Clean & Tune service and Cooling assistance.

Recently Moved to 460 Main Street 2nd Floor

Applicant questions or inquiries: HEAP HOTLINE: 858-7644

**For Regular benefit assistance customers can request an application to be mailed them.
APPLICATION REQUEST LINE: 858-1969**

The HEAP office opens for the season to all applicants on November 13, 2018.

The **Heating Equipment (furnace) Repair and Replacement** HERR component **is available** now to assist homeowners at 460 Main Street 2nd Floor where an in-person interview is required.

Clients may apply for Regular HEAP benefits electronically by visiting: **MyBenefits.NY.gov.**

Early Outreach Access:

Households that received HEAP last season and have a senior citizen, disabled individual, or child age 5 or younger may have received an **Early Access** application in September 2018.

Individuals, who believe they should have received an Early Access application but did not, or who need to replace a lost or damaged application, may call the HEAP Hotline at 858-7644 for assistance.

SNAP or TA Auto Pay:

Households currently receiving SNAP or TA assistance may qualify for an **Auto Pay HEAP benefit** that will be processed and credited automatically to heating bills in December or January. Households wishing to check the status of an Auto Pay may call the HEAP hotline at 858-7644. If household missed the Auto Pay, they may submit a HEAP application for processing prior to season opening.

Regular HEAP benefit: Available on or after 11/13/18 and until funding is exhausted

****One per household****

Regular HEAP for household's main source of heat is available beginning November 13th, 2018.

Gas and Electric benefits appear as a credit on bill about 60 days after approval. Oil, propane, wood, pellets, and coal benefits produce a delivery of fuel totaling benefit amount.

- Household **does not** need a shut off notice or low fuel to receive Regular HEAP.
- If there is a shut off notice, service will not be shut off during that 30 days, if approved.

Feb 5/18
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- If the primary service is off, benefit approval may restore service depending on total amount owed and duration without service.

There is **no resource test** for Regular HEAP; HEAP will not examine household’s savings or checking accounts etc. However Interest from accounts are required to be reported for income.

“Renter’s Benefit” for Heat Included in Rent:

If Heat costs are included in Rent (NON SUBSIDIZED RENT ONLY), benefit amount is based on HH income: \$35 if income is Tier I, and \$30 if income is Tier II.

HEAP Income Guidelines 2018 – 2019

Monthly Household Gross Income Cannot Exceed:

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Gross Monthly Income</u>
1	\$2,391
2	\$3,127
3	\$3,863
4	\$4,598
5	\$5,334
6	\$6,070
7	\$6,208
8	\$6,346
9	\$6,483
10	\$6,621
11	\$6,918

Emergency HEAP: (Shut off Notice or Low Fuel Supply or No utility service is required)

Emergency HEAP benefits are available **beginning January 3rd, 2019.**

One Emergency “Heat Related” electricity benefit is available- IF there is a Shut off notice and electric is needed to run furnace or thermostat, and is not main source of heat.

One Emergency “Heating” benefit, for main source of heat is available- IF there is a shut off notice or low fuel supply & Regular benefit was already received.

There is a Resource Test for Emergency HEAP benefits.