



## **New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance**

### **HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

HEAP is a federally funded energy assistance program intended to assist low income households with immediate home energy needs.

NYS provides regular benefits to households paying directly for heat and to households who pay for heat as a portion of the rent. NYS also operates an emergency component to assist households who have a heat or heat related emergency. HEAP benefits are also available to homeowners whose primary heating equipment needs repair or replacement.

In 2008-09 and again in 2009-10, the program also includes a cooling component.

A portion of the funds received by NYS are sub allocated to the NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR) to support the weatherization assistance program (WAP). In addition, funds are provided to the NYS Office for the Aging for local OFA WRAP.

#### ***2009-10 HOUSEHOLDS SERVED***

- Regular benefits: over 1.3M households received regular benefits
  - **NOTE:** This is approximately a 15% increase from 2008-09
- Emergency benefits: over 153,000 households received a heat or heat related emergency
- Heating equipment replacement and repair benefits: almost 5,000 households have been issued benefits

#### ***2009-10 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS***

- Program operated from November 2 through May 14, 2010.
- Heating equipment repair and replacement component remains open through September.
- Income Guidelines were set at the higher of 60% of state median income/ federal poverty levels.

- Heater's benefits ranged from \$400 to \$700. Structure included a base benefit of \$400 for natural gas or electric and \$600 for deliverable fuels. Households received an additional \$50 if income tier I and an additional \$50 if the household included a vulnerable individual.

NOTE: Base benefits for households heating with electricity provided by a municipal electric company were increased from \$200 to \$400.

- Heat included benefits ranged from \$1 to \$50.
- A second regular benefit was issued in May 2010 to those households paying directly for heat. Benefit amounts were \$100 for natural gas and electric heaters and \$200 for deliverable fuel heaters.
- Emergency benefits were based on the type of emergency.
  - Non-utility fuel emergency = \$600
  - Natural Gas or electric heat = ranged from \$135 - \$510
  - Heat related electric = ranged from \$65 - \$135

### **2009-10 COOLING COMPONENT**

A cooling component for HEAP eligible households with a documented medical emergency will open in mid June.

### **NYS LIHEAP FUNDING LEVELS FFY 2005-2011**

<b>FFY</b>	<b>Total Federal Block Grant</b>	<b>NYS Share</b>	<b>Total Federal Contingency Released</b>	<b>NYS Share</b>	<b>Total Funds Received</b>
2011***	\$2.51B	\$251M	\$790M	TBD	TBD
2010	\$4.5B	\$475.47M	\$490M	\$45M	\$520.47M
2009	\$4.5B	\$475.4M	\$590M	\$62.2M	\$537.6M
2008	\$1.98B	\$250.6M	\$610.1M*	\$121.9M**	\$372.5M
2007	\$1.98B	\$248M	\$131.17M	\$13.49M	\$261.5M
2006	\$2.48B	\$251M	\$681.17M	\$131.2M	\$382.2M
2005	\$1.9B	\$236M	\$277.25M	\$42.3M	\$278.3M

\*Includes \$20.35M in no-year contingency funds that were originally appropriated in FFY 2004.

\*\*Includes \$12.1M that was released in September 2008 for use in FFY 2009.

\*\*\*President's Proposed FFY 2011 Budget

## **BASIC ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR HEAP**

### **REGULAR BENEFITS**

- The household must have gross monthly income within the established income guidelines. There are 2 income tiers and higher benefits are provided to households with lower income.
- The household must pay directly for heat or pay for heat as a portion of the rent. Households residing in subsidized housing with heat included in the rent and certain congregate care facilities may be eligible for a \$1 benefit only.
- The applicant must be a NYS resident, reside in the dwelling for which assistance is requested and live in an eligible housing arrangement.
- Benefits are paid directly to vendors for households paying for heat.

### **EMERGENCY BENEFITS**

- The household must have gross monthly income within the established income guidelines.
- The household must be residing in the dwelling for which assistance is requested.
- The applicant must be the customer of record for the bill.
- The emergency must be for heat or heat related (electricity necessary to operate the furnace/thermostat).
- The applicant household's liquid resources cannot exceed \$2000 (or \$3000 if the household contains a member age 60 or older). HEAP policy does allow some exemptions for resources.
- The household must be in an emergency as defined by HEAP policy:
  - For oil, kerosene or propane, this means that there is less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  tank of fuel
  - For other deliverables, this means less than a 10 day supply
  - For natural gas or electricity, the household must have a shut off notice or have service already terminated.

## ***HEATING EQUIPMENT REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT***

- The household must have gross monthly income within the established income guidelines.
- The applicant must be the homeowner. Life use that is included in the deed transfer is ownership.
- The household must be residing in the dwelling for which assistance is requested.
- The household's liquid resources cannot exceed \$3000. HEAP policy does allow some exemptions.
- The primary heating equipment must be non working or unsafe. Replacements are done when the system cannot reasonably be repaired.
- Limit of \$6000.

## ***WANT MORE INFORMATION?***

Visit our agency website at: <http://otda.ny.gov/main/programs/apply/#heap>

Individuals may prescreen for HEAP and other benefits such as Food Stamps at:  
<http://www.mybenefits.ny.gov/>