

## ***HEAP*** ***HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM***

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program is a federally funded program that assists eligible households in meeting their energy needs. Applications can be obtained and submitted to the local DSS office with a face to face interview. If you are at least 60 years old and or disabled, you can apply at the OFA either thru the mail or as a walk in. HEAP usually opens November 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Regular Benefit closed May 16<sup>th</sup> this year and the Emergency component closed May 30<sup>th</sup>. The furnace Repair and Replacement component opened October 1, 2007 and will close September 30, 2008.

If you received HEAP last year and are not on FOODSTAMPS, the state will mail you an application toward the end of August. If you receive FOODSTAMPS you will automatically receive HEAP thru your FOODSTAMP case. If you have never received HEAP and think that you may be eligible give us a call and we will get you on the application mailing list which will not be mailed out until November 1<sup>st</sup>. Event though the applications are mailed in August to past participants, the program does not open until November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Eligibility for the program is based on income and your housing situation. Your total gross monthly income for your household size must be at or below the following:

<b>2007-08 Income Guidelines</b>	
<b>Household Size</b>	<b>Income Limit</b>
1	\$1,876
2	\$2,454
3	\$3,031
4	\$3,609
5	\$4,186
6	\$4,763
7	\$4,871
8	\$4,980
9	\$5,088
10	\$5,196
11	\$5,626
Each Additional Person: Add \$435	

You must pay directly for heating costs. If you live in subsidized housing, you must pay heating costs separately from your rent. Individual applicants must be U.S. citizens or qualified aliens. We do not look at resources for the Regular Benefit—only income.

We have a formula that the state uses to calculate household benefits using a point system. Points are assigned based on income, percent of income spent on energy, and presence of a vulnerable individual in the household. Vulnerable individuals are defined as children under the age of 6, adults aged 60 or older, or disabled individuals

The point value for the 2007-2008 program has been set at \$60 per point. The minimum number of points is two; the maximum number of points a household can receive is nine. Eligible households that pay directly for heat receive a benefit amount ranging from \$120 to \$540.

IF YOU HAVE A POWER OR GAS SHUTOFF OR YOU HAVE LESS THAN A TEN DAY SUPPLY OF HEATING FUEL, YOU NEED TO CONTACT YOUR Local Department of Social Services. This is considered an Emergency and OFA does not do the Emergency Benefits. The same is true for Furnace repair and replacement. It has to be an emergency—meaning that if you have no heat and or your furnace has been red tagged—unsafe to operate. HEAP does not replace units just because they are old. They have to be unsafe, again red tagged. If you get the furnace repaired during the night, and have not applied at DSS, it is no longer considered an emergency. You now have heat. You will be denied. It has to be an emergency.

In order to be eligible for emergency benefits, a household/applicant must be in an emergency situation. An emergency situation is defined as having less than a 10 day supply of fuel, having utility service terminated, or having utility service scheduled for termination. The household/applicant must meet the above income guidelines and:

Be the customer and tenant of record (have the bill in your name)

Reside in the dwelling

Have insufficient liquid resources to meet the emergency. Resources are looked at for the Emergency Benefit.

Eligible households receive emergency benefits based on the type of emergency. In the 2007-2008 program, basic emergency benefits have been set as follows:

Category	Household Size	
	3 or less	4 or more
PSC Heat Related Domestic (electric service required to operate heating equipment)	\$125	\$150
Natural Gas — Heat Only	\$250	\$275
Natural gas heat and electric to operate heating equipment	\$375	\$425

PSC/Village of Greenport Electric Heat	\$440	\$560
Municipal Electric – Heat Related Domestic	\$60	\$75
Municipal Electric heat – Primary Heating Source	\$125	\$150
Non-utility heating fuel (oil, kerosene, propane, wood) <b>Effective 2/11/08</b>	<b>\$700</b>	<b>\$700</b>

## HEAP Funded 2008 Cooling Component

A limited amount of federal Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) funds have been made available for the purchase and installation of energy efficient air conditioners to eligible individuals during the summer of 2008.

To be eligible for the program, a household must meet existing HEAP income guidelines and have at least one member that suffers from an acute medical condition that is exacerbated by extreme heat. Written documentation from a physician clearly indicating the need for an air conditioner is required and must be dated within the previous six months.

# WRAP : Weatherization Referral Assistance Packaging Program

The WRAP program is sponsored by the Columbia County Office for the Aging and can assist HEAP eligible households, 60 + years of age, in weatherizing their homes.

. The objectives of the program are:

Locate and identify needy, energy vulnerable, elderly households.

Refer such elderly households to appropriate weatherization service agencies;

Reduce energy consumption thereby accruing energy savings for the households.

The WRAP liaison may receive the referral for WRAP services from the individual, a family member, another agency, HEAP list, or Case Managers.

The client and the WRAP liaison will discuss the needs of the household and develop a "Plan of Action." This plan includes the necessary repairs to insure energy efficiency.

The client will be visited by one of our Case Managers or myself who then will assess the needed repairs. The client will sign an authorization form giving the liaison permission to explore all possible avenues of energy efficient services that will assist the household.

The client will sign the plan of action after approving all or some of the proposed objectives.

The WRAP liaison will be in frequent contact with the client and or the client's representative until the project is completed to the satisfaction of the client. The client is sent an evaluation form to fill out and express any opinions that may assist in improving the program.

For further information about the program, please contact WRAP liaison Patricia Moskaluk at: **518-828-4258**.

**Note: as of 10/10/07 the Health & Safety Repairs were eliminated. I can only use WRAP funds for Energy Conservation issues. I can spend up to \$1,000 each time with a \$3,000 Max Lifetime Cap. I try to leverage WRAP funds with HRCC whom offers low-interest loans and or grants-grants you do not have to pay back and COI Weatherization Program.**

## **Life Line**

### **Telephone Discount:**

The program is available to income eligible telephone customers who participate in, or are eligible to participate in, any of these government programs:

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)  
Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)  
Food Stamps  
Medicaid  
Veteran's Disability or Surviving Spouse Pension

If you are eligible for, or participate in, any of the previously mentioned government programs, contact the Office for the Aging at 828-4258 and tell us you would like to sign up for Lifeline service. We will assist you with the application and answer your questions on eligibility.

You can also call your local telephone company for more information (their number is in the directory and on your phone bill). Or, call the NYS Public Service Commission's toll-free HELPLINE 1-800-342-3377 between 8:30 am and 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday.