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LOW

INCOME

HOME

ENERGY

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PROGRAM

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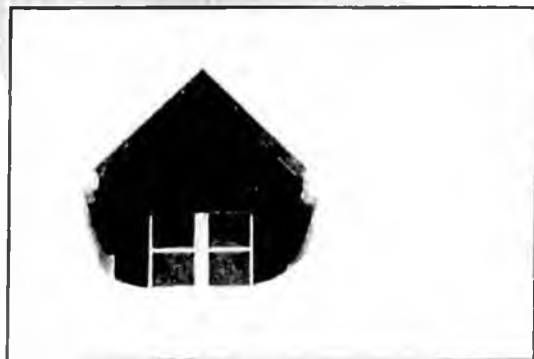
FILE

It's easy to apply!

Just complete the application form, enclose the requested information and mail it to us.

Applications must be postmarked between September 1 and April 30. Payments are awarded beginning November 1.

Income guidelines change annually. This information may be obtained on our website at www.hss.state.ak.us/dpa/heat or by calling (800) 470-3058.



The Heating Assistance Program is funded by the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

State of Alaska
Heating Assistance Program
400 Willoughby, Suite 301
Juneau, AK 99801-1700



The Heating Assistance Program



Let us help you
stay warm
this winter!

(800) 470-3058
www.hss.state.ak.us/dpa/heat



Need help with heating bills?

The Heating Assistance Program strives to ensure that no one's health is jeopardized due to the inability to pay heating bills.

For many Alaska households, heating costs place a severe and continuing stress on the family's budget. In some instances, the household is forced to make painful decisions regarding which bills to pay and which necessities to survive without.

The Heating Assistance Program (HAP) helps eligible low-income households pay for winter heating costs. HAP will provide a one-time benefit to eligible households to be used for heat and associated electric bills. The payment amount is determined by geographic location, fuel type, income, and household size.



How does it work?

We provide a one-time benefit to eligible households to be used for heating bills.

- ◆ An overdue bill or cut-off notice is not required.
- ◆ You do not have to own your home or pay heating bills directly to be eligible for assistance.
- ◆ You do not have to be receiving public assistance to qualify.

How to apply...

STEP 1: Application

Application forms are available from your heating supplier, electric company, WIC clinic, Senior Center, Division of Public Assistance Office, or we'll mail one to you upon request. You can also download one from our web site at:

<http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dpa/heat>

To apply, complete the application form, enclose the following information, and mail it to us:

- ◆ Proof of gross income from all household members for the calendar month prior to application date;
- ◆ A copy of your current heat and electric bills (if you pay for your home energy directly);
- ◆ If you rent, a copy of your rental agreement and a recent rent receipt.



STEP 2: Notification

We will determine if you are eligible based on the information provided. You will be notified of eligibility status within 45 days. If you are eligible, you will be informed of the amount of assistance you will receive.

STEP 3: Payment

If you are eligible, a payment is made to your heating vendor as a credit to your account or, in some cases, directly to you.

For more information contact us at:
(800) 470-3058
www.hss.state.ak.us/dpa/heat

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December 6, 2005

Heating Assistance Program Funding

What is the Heating Assistance Program?

- The Heating Assistance Program (HAP) provides assistance to low-income households to offset the cost of home heating.
- The program is 100 percent federally funded by the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) block grant.
- The Heating Assistance Program accepts applications from September 1 through April 30, and begins issuing benefits on November 1. An eligible household will receive one heating assistance grant during this period. The grant is typically paid to the home energy vendor and reflected as a credit on the customer's account.
- Congress is expected to fund LIHEAP in FY 2006 at the same level as FY 2005, a total of \$11.9 million for Alaska's state and tribal LIHEAP.

Issues

- The Governor is requesting \$8.8 million in state funds in fiscal year 2006 to supplement the LIHEAP funds. The funds will be used to increase household grants. The Department will also grant funds to the Alaska tribal LIHEAP providers to supplement their programs.
- The price of home heating oil has increased 90% over the past two years, based upon Alaska spot market prices from 10 communities around the state. This is creating great difficulties for low income Alaskans, as their grants do not adequately cover their increased costs.
- In Kotzebue the average grant two years ago purchased 735 gallons of home heating oil compared to 402 gallons today. In Nome the number of gallons has decreased from 650 to 339 gallons.
- In fiscal year 2005, 9,055 households received a HAP grant, with another 4,924 households served by tribal LIHEAP providers. So far this winter the number of applications received by the HAP has increased 18 % over the same time last year. Low-income households in virtually every community in Alaska are assisted by LIHEAP.

Major Goals

- Increase benefits for Heating Assistance Program recipients and tribal LIHEAP programs to counter increases in energy prices.
- Continue to provide benefits to all eligible Alaskan households that apply for assistance.
- Minimize the economic impact of customer bad debt on Alaska home energy suppliers, particularly in rural Alaska.

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For more information, please contact

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