

Fuel Assistance

Fuel assistance is a federally funded program to assist low income households with their heating bills. This program runs November 1st – April 30th of each year.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FUEL ASSISTANCE?

Any low-income household whose gross yearly income falls at or below the income guidelines may be eligible. Homeowners and tenants can both be eligible to receive fuel assistance. All heating types are included in the fuel assistance program, even some households who have heat included in their rent.

DO I GET A DISCOUNT ON MY HEATING BILL?

If you are eligible for fuel assistance you may be eligible for a discount from your utility companies. Gas and Electric companies offer discounts. Verizon offers a lifeline discount on basic service.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DISCOUNT INCLUDE:

1. The account must be in the name of the person listed as head of household on the fuel assistance application.
2. Your gross yearly household income must fall with 60% of the poverty level. (see guideline)
3. Fuel assistance will automatically notify the utilities if you are found to be eligible for the discount.
*Incoming guidelines are subject to change.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR THE PROGRAM?

Based on the income guidelines listed above, if you believe you may be eligible for fuel assistance and if you live in a town covered by our service area call our main office at 413-445-4503 to make an appointment.

WHAT DOCUMENTS WILL I NEED TO PROVIDE TO APPLY FOR FUEL ASSISTANCE?

- Photo ID for Head of Household
- Social Security cards for **all** household members
- Proof of income for **every** household member over the age of 18 for the **30 days prior** to your appointment date.
 - Wages (4 consecutive weeks)
 - Social Security (verification of gross amount from the source)
 - Pension (verification of gross amount from the source)
 - EAEDC-TANF (Award letter)
 - Self-Employment (Most current ***Certified** tax return)
 - Rental Income (Most current ***Certified** tax return)
 - Child Support (court order, DOR print out, or notarized letter from ex-spouse)
 - Unemployment (4 consecutive weeks)
- Lease/Full name address and phone number of Landlord
- Mortgage statement/Tax bill, Home Owners Insurance
- Current Gas and Electric bills

*If taxes are self-prepared an IRS tax transcript is needed and can be obtained by calling 1-800-829-1040

HOW WILL I KNOW IF I AM ELIGIBLE AND FOR HOW MUCH?

Once your application has been received you can call our automated phone system at 1-866-216-6200 to check the status of your application, eligibility, and any payments made to your heating account. You will need to know your social security number to access your information. The automated system is available 24 hours a day 7 days a week. You will not be able to speak with a representative from this number.

<u>INCOME GUIDELINES</u> Fuel Assistance Income Limits Winter 2011-2012	
Household size	Gross annual income
1	\$31,218
2	\$40,824
3	\$50,429
4	\$60,035
5	\$69,641
6	\$79,246
7	\$81,047
8	\$82,848