

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS APPLICATION JULY 2023 - MAY 2024

Ohio's Energy Assistance Programs can help income eligible Ohioans manage their utility bills. The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), and emergency HEAP provide the benefit directly to a customer's utility bill. The Percentage of Income Payment Plan Plus (PIPP) is an extended payment plan in which customers pay a percentage of their income toward their utility bill each month. If you are looking to improve the energy efficiency of your home to help lower your energy bills, the Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) or Electric Partnership Program (EPP) can help. For HWAP and EPP, visit energyhelp.ohio.gov to find your local provider and contact them for additional information.

You can apply for the energy assistance programs by visiting energyhelp.ohio.gov and completing the online application, by completing this application and mailing it in, or by scheduling an appointment with your local energy assistance provider or HWAP/EPP provider. Applications completed online or by mail can take up to 12 weeks to process.

Here's what you'll need to complete this application:

- · Proof of citizenship for each member of household.
- Proof of income for each member of household for either the previous 30 days or 12 months.
- · Copies of your most recent utility bills.
- · Disability verification (if applicable).

A household is defined as any individual or group of individuals living together as one economic unit for whom residential energy is customarily purchased in common or who make undesignated payments for energy in the form of rent (Per Section 2603 (5) of the Low-Income Energy Assistance Act of 1981). If you live in federally subsidized housing and have a utility bill in your name, you may be eligible for assistance. A copy of the utility bill or documentation of responsibility (example: copy of your rental agreement/lease or signed letter from your landlord) is required.

For a dwelling unit to be eligible for energy assistance benefits, its primary heat source must be:

- A regulated or unregulated utility (gas and electric).
- A permanent, free-standing fuel tank (oil and propane).
- A legal fireplace (wood).
- · A legally vented wood/coal stove or furnace.

Residents of any licensed medical facility (hospital, skilled nursing facility or intermediate care facility) or publicly operated community residence (example: YMCA) are not eligible. Boarding/rooming houses, group homes or emergency shelters are also not eligible.

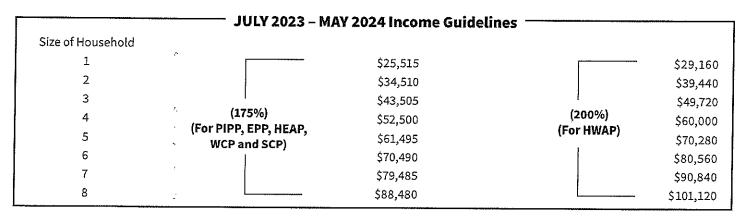
If eligible, the HEAP benefit amount will depend on federal funding levels, how many people live with you, total household income and the main fuel used. In most cases, benefits are applied directly to the heating bill by the utility company. If you are reverifying your PIPP amount, it will be based on either 10% or 5% of your total household income for the past 30 days, depending on your heating source.

These are the programs you can apply for with this application:

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP).

· Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP).

· Percentage of Income Payment Plan Plus (PIPP).



When determining 175% of the federal poverty guidelines, households with more than eight members must add \$8,995 to the yearly income or \$739.31 to the 30-day income for each additional member. When determining 200% of the federal poverty guidelines, households with more than eight members must add \$10,280 for each additional member.

How can I check the status of my application?

To check the status of your application, please visit <u>energyhelp.ohio.gov</u> and create an account. **Please note: HEAP benefits will be applied to your utility bill starting in January 2024.**

If you have questions, please contact your local energy assistance provider or send us a message by visiting <u>energyhelp.ohio.gov</u> and clicking "contact us."

Accepted Citizenship Documentation (DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS)

Pro	oof of U.S. Citizenship	Pr	oof of Legal Resident/Qualified Alien
1.	Birth Certificate/Hospital Birth Records/Birth Registration Card	1. 2.	Naturalization Papers/Certifications of Citizenship INS ID Card
3. 4. 5.	Baptismal Records (Only when place and date of birth is shown) Indian Census Record Military Service Record U.S. Passport Verified Citizenship for Ohio Works First (OWF)	3. 4. 5.	Alien Registration Cards/Re-entry permits INS Form I-151, IR1-9, or I-551 (Form I-151 will not be valid after August 1, 1993) INS Form I-94 if annotated with either: a) Sections 203(a)(7), 207, 208, 212(d) (5), 243(h), or 241(b)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act: or b) One or a combination of the following terms: Refugee, Parolee, or Asylee Permanent Visa INS Form G-641, "Application for verification of Information
	Program Voter Registration Cards		from INS Records," when annotated at bottom by INS representative as lawful admission for humanitarian reasons
	Social Security Cards (Social Security Cards administered by Social Security Administration that do not include	7.	Documentation that alien is classified pursuant to Sections: 101(a)(2), 203(a), 204(a)(1)(a), 207, 208, 212(d)(5), 241(b)(3), 243(h), or 244(a)(3), of the Immigration and Nationality Act
1	notes regarding work authorization status will be accepted.)	8.	Court order stating deportation has been withheld pursuant to Section 241(b) (3) or 243(h) or of the Immigration and Nationality Act
	,	9.	INS Form I-688

Accepted Proof of Income

Fixed Income	Earned Employment Income	Supplemental Income	Other Sources of Income	Other Earned Income
Award/Benefit letter Payment printout/ statement from issuing agency Copy of check or bank statement including deposit Most recent filed IRS Form 1040 or Tax Transcript Most recent IRS Form 1099	All pay stubs received 30 days from the date of the application that include gross and year-to-date amounts received (including active military pay) Completed and signed Employment Verification Form* Payroll Printout Most current pay statement (Leave and Earning Statement (LES))	Copy of check/award amount letter ODJFS documents/ eligibility letter with amounts and dates Most recent IRS Form 1099 Housing Authority Documentation Pay stubs received within the previous 30 days from the date of the application Payment printout/ statement from issuing agency	Statement from Financial Institution Copy of check or bank statement showing deposit Most recent IRS Form 1099	Pay stubs indicating amount received within the previous 12 months from the date of the application Self-Employment Income and Expense Form* for the previous 12 months Most recent filed IRS Form 1040 and Schedules Most recent IRS Form 1099 Seasonal Employment Verification Form*
*All forms marked with an a	; sterisk can be found at ener	gyhelp.ohio.gov.		

Privacy Act Notice

DISCLOSURE: The disclosure of Social Security numbers is mandatory to receive HEAP benefits.

AUTHORITY: 45 CFR 96.84 (c); 42 U.S.C. 405(c)(2)(C)(i)

USE: The state will use Social Security numbers in the administration of the Home Energy Assistance Program to verify information supplied on the application to prevent, detect and correct fraud, waste, and abuse. The information is also used to respond to requests for information from agency programs funded by block grants to states for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or agencies requesting information for child support or to establish paternity. The applicant may be held civilly or criminally liable under federal or state law for knowingly making false or fraudulent statements.

Primary Household Member Personal Information Section*

Enter the information completely. Do not send originals. PLEASE USE DARK BLUE OR BLACK INK. Failure to fill out the application completely, provide all the required documentation and sign the application (on the last page) will delay the processing of your application.

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^{*} Indicates information required in order to process your application.

Primary Household Member Income Section*

Failure to fill out the application completely, provide all the required documentation and sign the application will delay the processing of your application.

Fixed income	Earned Employment Income	Supplemental Income	Other Sources of Income ^t	Other Earned Income
Social Security Supplemental Security (SSI) Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) Pension (Private and VA) Widow/Widower's Benefit Alimony Black Lung Pension Lump Sum payout from these sources	Wages Active Military Pay	Unemployment Utility Assistance Workers' Compensation Employment Disability Payout Strike Benefit		Self-employment (Includes owning own business, babysitting, home party sales, odd jobs, Ohio Electronic Child Care, etc.) Seasonal employment (includes teachers, construction workers, etc.) categories MUST provide hs of income documentation
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Household Members and Income Section

If you have additional household members (anyone living in your household at the same address), please complete Household Members and Income Section of the application (this section), on pages 2–4. If you have more than five household members, print an additional household member section page from energyhelp.ohio.gov or pick up another application at your energy assistance provider.

Full Name*			Social Security Num	ber*	Date of Birth (MM / DD / YYYY)	,-
Relationship to person applying						
Disabled* Yes No	Gender Female Ma	le Ethnicit	y Hispanic,	Latino or Spanish Origins No	ot Hispanic, Latino or Spanish Origin	ns
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Gross income for the Past 12 Months	Gross Income for the Past 12 Months	Gross Income for the	Past 12 Months	Gross Income for the Past 12 Mon		ast 12 Months

Household Members and Income Section - Continued

Fill out the table below for all household members. Use additional section (on page 4) as needed for other household members with income.

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Full Name*			Social Security Num	ber*	Date of Birth (MM / DD / YYYY)*
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Widow/Widower's Benefit		Strike Benefit		Payout / Lottery Winnings)	construction workers, etc.)
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Household Members and Income Section - Continued

Fill out the table below for additional household members.

Print additional pages, as needed, for other household members with income.

Full Name*			Social Security Nur	nber*		Dated	f Birth (MM	/ DD / YYYY)*	
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D.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS APPLICATION JULY 2023 - MAY 2024

Terms of Agreement

l agree

To pay my Percentage of Income Payment Plan Plus (PIPP) amount for my electric and/or natural gas service every month.

To go to my local energy assistance provider or to energy help.ohio.gov to reapply at least once a year with updated household information, and income documentation in order to remain eligible.

To contact my local energy assistance provider or go online to energyhelp.ohio.gov to report any changes to my total household income or number of household members, within 30 days of the change.

To accept any energy efficiency programs offered by Development or its designated providers, if eligible.

To allow my utility companies to release my name, address, telephone number, household member information, amount of my utility usage, and total past due amount to Development and agencies performing weatherization services and/or provide other energy related services.

To allow Development to release my name, address, telephone number, household member information, and current status to the utility companies, and other energy assistance providers.

To allow Development to share my usage and demographic data with organizations contracted by Development to evaluate the programs administered by Development.

I understand

I will not be re-verified if I owe any PIPP payments. I must make up these payments by the next billing cycle, or the due date given to me by my utility companies.

If I miss three or more consecutive payments, I will receive a notice on my bill and have one billing cycle after the notice to make up payments or be dropped from PIPP.

If I do not re-verify my income at least once every 12 months, I will be dropped from PIPP.

If I do not make up missed PIPP payments by my stated anniversary date, I will be dropped from PIPP (I understand the PIPP verification and anniversary dates are printed on the utility bills each month).

If I make my PIPP payments in full and on time every month, I will receive a credit for 1/24th of my total past-due amount, and I will not need to pay the difference between my PIPP payment and my actual bill amount.

If I reapply for PIPP and I am not eligible, or if I choose to be removed from PIPP, I can enroll in Graduate PIPP for up to 12 months after the date I am removed and still receive credits toward my past-due amounts owed on my utility accounts.

If I move out of the service area for my gas/electric company, I can enroll in the Post PIPP program to make payments on my closed account and receive credits toward the past-due amounts.

I am legally responsible for all past-due amounts on my gas and/or electric accounts and if I am no longer enrolled in PIPP, the past due amounts will become due. If these past-due amounts are not paid in full, the utility companies may use any standard means of collection for the past-due amounts on my accounts.

I may appeal if my application is not decided upon within 12 weeks. I also may appeal within 30 days if I disagree with my benefit amount or if I was denied assistance.

General Authorization

An applicant who provides inaccurate income or household composition information risks: being dropped from PIPP and/or other energy assistance programs; being ineligible to reapply for 24 months; having arrearage credits added back on to their utility bill; and/or receiving a bill from their utility (ies) for the full account balance.

I authorize the Tax Commissioner of the Ohio Department of Taxation or any agent or employee designated by the Tax Commissioner of the Ohio Department of Taxation as well as the Director of the Ohio Department of Development or any designated agent or employee of the Director, or the Director of the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services or any designated agent or employee of the Director, to disclose to the Director of the Ohio Department of Taxation, or any agent or employee of the Director, or to the Tax Commissioner of the Ohio Department of Taxation, or any agent or employee designated by the Tax Commissioner, all of the disclosure(s). The applicant expressly waives the confidentiality provisions of the Ohio Revised Code which might otherwise prohibit disclosure and agrees to hold the Ohio is to be liberally construed and interpreted; any ambiguity shall be resolved in favor of the Tax Commissioner of the Ohio Department of Taxation, the Director of the Ohio Department of Development, and the Director of the Ohio Department of Dobs and Family Services.

Iunderstand that by signing this application, I grant the Ohio Department of Development, or its authorized providers, access to my bank, employment, public assistance, utility company or other records needed for verification and evaluation of services. I further grant Ohio Department of Development, or its authorized providers, access to any information that I have provided to any other state agency, including but not limited to income information regarding electric service is purchased in common. I understand that filling out this application does not guarantee that my household will receive assistance. If I am or become a PIPP customer I understand that I may be included in a group for which of each program. I understand that I have the right to appeal, I certify that the information I have provided in this application is, to the best of my knowledge, a true, accurate and complete disclosure of the requested information. I understand that I may be held civilly and criminally liable under federal and state laws for knowingly making false or fraudulent statements.

I declare under penalty of perjury the information submitted in this application is true and correct.

PLEASE SIGN AND MAIL APPLICATION TO: Office of Community Assistance, Home Energy Assistance Program P.O. Box 1240, Columbus, Ohio 43216 X Sign Here ________ Application Date ________