

Heating assistance is available to help North Dakotans with heating costs

Bottineau, N.D. – Residents of Bottineau, McHenry and Pierce counties who need help paying for heating costs can apply for North Dakota’s Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) beginning Oct 1,2021.

The federally-funded program helps qualifying households pay a portion of their home heating costs, whether a home is heated with natural gas, electricity, propane, coal, fuel oil, wood or kerosene. Emergency LIHEAP help is also available for crisis situations to avoid shut offs and disconnects and to help with furnace repair or replacement when no other resources are available.

Both homeowners and renters can apply for LIHEAP. However, individuals living in subsidized housing whose heat is included in their rent are not eligible for the program.

People can apply through their local Northern Prairie Human Service Zone offices (formerly known as county social service offices) from Oct 1, 2021 through May 31, 2022.

Zone offices are located in Bottineau, Towner and Rugby. Location details can be found online at www.nd.gov/dhs/locations/countysocialserv/.

Human service zone offices may be serving individuals by phone, in-person by appointment, or in-person on a walk-in basis and are generally open 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday. Individuals should check with their local office for operating hours and access questions.

A new application must be completed each year. Anyone who needs help completing and submitting an application can work with their local human service zone office or can also contact Community Options at 800-823-2417 ext. 140.

Who qualifies?

LIHEAP assistance is based on the number of people living in the home and their combined income, type of heat source, and other factors to ensure help goes to those most in need. To qualify, a household can earn up to 60 percent of the state median income, which equals \$32,475.00 per year for a one-person household and \$42,467.00 per year for a two-person household. Larger households can find qualifying income levels and more program information online at www.nd.gov/dhs/services/financialhelp/energyassist.html.

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Contact:

Northern Prairie Human Service Zone, (701) 228-3613, 711 (TTY) or nphszone@nd.gov