

Utilities

LIEAP

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) assists eligible households with the cost of home heating through direct cash payments or payments to utility companies on their behalf. A crisis component is available for households without resources facing the loss of a heating source. Eligibility for both program components is based on a combination of factors, including income, type of heating payment, and total heating costs.

The Division of Family Assistance (DFA) operates LIEAP in each of the DHHR field offices for a short time each winter, usually beginning with an automated payment or a mail-out to targeted households. In addition, DFA contracts with the Community Action network and with regional Agency on Aging offices to perform outreach and accept LIEAP applications at their local sites.

There is also an Emergency Repair and Replacement Program that can assist people with repair or replacement of a heating system. An application must be made to the

local DHHR or through the office of the DFA. Income eligibility is based on gross income and household size. For more information contact your local DHHR.

20% Discount Program

The Special Reduced Residential Service Rate Program (20% Utility Discount Program) was established by statute to assist certain eligible participants in receiving a 20% discount from their electric, gas, and/or water companies. WV American Water (WVAW) is currently the only water compa-

ny participating in the program. To be eligible for this rate reduction, one must be a recipient of either SNAP AND be 60 years of age or older, SSI and be 18 years of age or older, or WV WORKS. For gas and electric, one must be a recipient of one of these programs during November, December, January, February, and March to get the discount for that month. The WVAW program runs year-round. The electric, gas, and/or water companies will be responsible for determining eligibility for the Special Reduced Residential Service Rate.

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