



# Utility Payment Assistance Programs



**PAST DUE BALANCES MAY PUT YOU AT RISK FOR SHUT OFF AFTER 12/31/21**

**APPLY FOR NEW JERSEY'S ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS TODAY!**

**Universal Service Fund (USF)** provides monthly credits of up to \$180 per month for household natural gas and electric bills. USF credits are based on the percentage of household income spent on energy. USF also offers *forgiveness of overdue utility balances* through the **USF-Fresh Start Program**. Through Fresh Start, for each month a USF customer pays their current monthly charges in full, 1/12 of the balance owed at time of enrollment is forgiven. See next page for income limits. Apply for USF with the HEAP application (see below).

**Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)** provides grants for household heating costs, medically-necessary cooling, and heating expenses included in rent. Self-screen for eligibility and apply online at [www.nj.gov/dca/dcaid](http://www.nj.gov/dca/dcaid), or call the USF/HEAP hotline at **800-510-3102** to have an application mailed to you, find a local application agency, or request a home visit due to medical reasons.

**Payment Assistance for Gas and Electric (PAGE)** provides grants for natural gas and electric bills for low- and moderate-income households. If you are income eligible for USF, you must apply for USF before seeking supplemental assistance from PAGE. You can apply online at [www.njpoweron.org](http://www.njpoweron.org) or call **732-982-8710** to have an application mailed to you or for help finding a local application agency.

**Lifeline Utility Assistance Program** helps income-eligible senior citizens and the disabled with their electric and natural gas costs. Income limits are less than \$28,769 if single and less than \$35,270 if married. Income limits will be raised by \$10,000 on January 1, 2022. Apply for Lifeline with the NJSave application at [www.aging.nj.gov](http://www.aging.nj.gov) or call **800-792-9745**.

**New Jersey SHARES** offers assistance for the following types of utility bills: water, telephone, broadband (internet), and energy bills. Apply online at [www.njshares.org](http://www.njshares.org) or call **866-657-4273** to have an application mailed to you or for help finding local partner agencies and more information.

**If you have an overdue balance and cannot reach a fair payment arrangement with your utility company, please call NJBPU at 800-624-0241 and apply for assistance programs above.**



## Annual Income Limits for Energy Assistance Programs

Household Size	PAGE	USF	HEAP
1	\$66,968	\$51,520	\$40,181
2	\$87,575	\$69,680	\$52,545
3	\$108,180	\$87,840	\$64,908
4	\$128,786	\$106,000	\$77,272
5	\$149,392	\$124,160	\$89,635
6	\$169,998	\$142,320	\$101,999
7	\$173,862	\$160,480	\$104,317
8	\$177,725	\$178,640	\$106,635

Apply for Emergency Rental Assistance that covers utility costs included in rent:  
<https://njdca.onlinepha.com> or call (609) 490-4550