

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Efficiency Maine www.energymaine.com 1-866-376-2463

Efficiency Maine is a statewide effort to promote the more efficient use of electricity, help Maine residents and businesses reduce energy costs, and improve Maine's environment. Efficiency Maine is funded by electricity consumers and administered by the Maine Public Utilities Commission.

- **Maine Home Performance with Energy Star (MaineHP)**

The Maine Home Performance with Energy Star® (MaineHP) Program links Maine homeowners with qualified, certified Evaluators who provide one-stop-shop access to a whole-house approach to home improvements.

Maine State Housing Authority www.mainehousing.org 1-800-452-4668

Maine State Housing Authority provides assistance to low and moderate income families for home heating, utility bills, and energy improvements to the home. They administer the following programs:

- **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (commonly called LIHEAP or HEAP) provides money to low income homeowners and renters to help pay heating costs. The funds are distributed throughout Maine by 11 Community Action Programs, in most cases directly to the fuel vendors. The program is not intended to pay for all heating costs, but to assist in paying the heating bills.

- **Low Income Assistance Program**

Low Income Assistance Plans (LIAP) help low-income homeowners and renters with their electric utility bills. MaineHousing, through Community Action Program agencies, accepts customer applications for LIAP as part of the LIHEAP application process.

- **Weatherization**

MaineHousing's Weatherization Program and Central Heating Improvement Program (CHIP) provide grants to low-income homeowners and renters to improve home energy efficiency and perform energy-related repairs. Recipients of the LIHEAP program are eligible for the Weatherization program.

- **Appliance Replacement Program**

The Appliance Replacement Program is designed to help low-income households reduce their energy costs through replacement of older refrigerators and other home appliances that are inefficient and expensive to operate, and through consumer education. Recipients of the LIHEAP program are eligible for the Appliance Replacement Program.

- **Home Energy Loan Program**

The Home Energy Loan Program (HELP) provides very low interest rate loans to low- and moderate-income homeowners to finance improvements to make their homes more energy efficient. Income eligible homeowners may borrow up to \$30,000 at 3.95% interest.

Prepared By

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The mission of WHCA is to bring community resources together to help people in Washington and Hancock counties achieve self-sufficiency and a better quality of life. WHCA administers the following fuel and utility assistance programs in Washington County. To apply for these programs you must call to make an appointment. Applications can take up to 4 weeks from date of application to be processed.

- **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**

The application process opened Monday, July 23, 2008 and will remain open until April 2009. WHCA hopes to accept 5000 applications for this program by December 31, 2008.

- **Emergency Crisis Intervention Program**

This program can provide up to \$200.00 of emergency heating assistance in life threatening situations. This assistance may be received once in a program year by current LIHEAP recipients.

- **Low Income Assistance Program**

Sponsored by Bangor Hydro-Electric Company, Central Maine Power Company, and Eastern Maine Electric Co-op, this program provides a monthly reduction on electric bills. Benefits vary with utility company plan and household income. Applications for this program are accepted in conjunction with an application for the LIHEAP program.

- **Appliance Replacement Program**

This program was established to reduce residential electricity costs in low-income households by replacing inefficient and unsafe appliances. Appliances that may be installed under this program include: replacement refrigerators; compact fluorescent light bulbs and hard-wired fluorescent lighting fixtures to replace existing incandescent and halogen lighting; and conventional inner-spring mattresses to replace electrically-heated waterbeds. WHCA staff will educate the homeowner on energy savings and perform an energy audit on the homeowner's refrigerator. If the refrigerator fails the energy test, it can be replaced with an energy efficient appliance. In order to be eligible for this program the homeowner must have a current and approved LIHEAP application, the home has to have been previously weatherized by WHCA or be currently in the weatherization program, and the refrigerator age has to be older than 1995.

WHCA also helps administer the **Keep ME Warm Fund** which is a public and private collaboration focused on raising money through private contributions to provide heating assistance to anyone in Maine who needs it.

USDA Rural Development administers the **Section 504 Repair and Rehabilitation Program**. This is an income based, low interest loan program. The program can be used to update an inefficient heating system, purchase a new heating system, replace or add insulation, and replace broken or drafty windows or doors. Grants are also available under this program for elderly people aged 62 or older who have very low income.