

# HEATING ASSISTANCE

*Making ends easier to meet.*



## LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)

The purpose of the LIHEAP is to provide home energy assistance to eligible low income households. The program is funded by the Federal Government and administered through the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Human Services Zones. The awards are based on household income, type of fuel used, and the size, type and location of the home.

To receive benefits this heating season, which runs from October 1 through May 31, Great Plains encourages those who wish to apply to complete the federal energy assistance program application right away. An application form is available in the following ways:

- ▶ Online, fill out or download an application from the DHHS website at **[www.hhs.nd.gov](http://www.hhs.nd.gov)**.
- ▶ Call to request an application from the Human Services Zone office or the State LIHEAP office at 800-755-2716.

For assistance filling out and submitting the LIHEAP application, contact Community Options at 800-823-2417.

## WHO SHOULD APPLY?

- Households who buy heating fuel from a fuel dealer or utility company, and households whose rent payments include the cost of heat, if they do not receive a rental subsidy.
- Households who need assistance with: non-repairable furnaces and fuel costs that are high due to houses that are older or in poor shape.
- Households who have difficulty paying fuel bills due to other rising costs and are in danger of losing their heating source.

(More helpful information on the back side.)



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## WHAT SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE?

**Heating Assistance:** LIHEAP can pay for a portion of fuel used to heat the home lived in during the months the household is eligible between October 1 and May 31 during the heating season.

**Weatherization:** The weatherization program helps income-qualified households make their homes and apartments more energy efficient. Weatherization seals a home to keep warm air in and cold air out during the winter.

**Furnace and Chimney Cleaning:** For those qualified for LIHEAP, the program can pay up to \$250 to clean and inspect a furnace and \$150 to clean a chimney. This program requires prior authorization by the local Human Service Zone office.

**Emergency Assistance:** LIHEAP funds are available when there is a home energy emergency that may threaten the life of a family. Upon prior approval, payment for the cost of a furnace replacement if it is determined to be unsafe, not operating and unable to be repaired.

The Human Service Zone office will determine eligibility for any of the LIHEAP programs upon receipt of an applicant's completed form.

## ENERGY SHARE OF ND BILL ASSISTANCE

Energy Share is a private nonprofit organization with the goal of helping North Dakotans faced with energy emergencies meet their needs. Great Plains customers who are experiencing difficulty keeping up with their utility bills due to an emergency or a situation that puts them behind may qualify for heating bill assistance through Energy Share. Please contact your local Community Action agency or the state-wide office at 800-726-7960.

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