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

ERIE, PA (January 7, 2015) The City of Erie joins with National Fuel to inform Erie area residents of the federally funded Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). LIHEAP provides assistance to eligible customers to pay their home heating bills. The program is open from November 3, 2014 – through April 3, 2015. **Customers are encouraged to apply immediately for assistance, as funds are limited and will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.** The program helps low income residents pay their heating bills through Cash grants and Crisis grants. Residents are reminded that they do not need to have an unpaid bill to receive a home heating assistance grant, nor do they need to be receiving public assistance.

This year, a family of four with an annual income of up to \$35,775 can qualify for assistance. The size of the grant is based upon income and household size. If a resident is having difficulty paying heating bills, LIHEAP may be able to help. If eligible, National Fuel will immediately post the funds directly to the account when they are received.

Residents without service and owing a balance may apply for a Crisis grant from November 3, 2014 until April 3, 2015 to help to have service restored. If applying for a Crisis grant, a shut-off notice indicating the balance due is required in order to have service turned restored. Crisis grants will be available November 3, 2014.

### **To apply for LIHEAP:**

- **Online** - [www.LIHEAPhelps.co](http://www.LIHEAPhelps.co)
- **By mail** - download an application at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us)
- **In person or by telephone** - contact your local County Assistance Offices
- **For more information**, call the LIHEAP hotline at **866-857-7095**

### **You will need the following information to apply:**

- Names, dates of birth and social security numbers of all household members
- Proof of identification
- Income information for all members of your household
- A current heating bill

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