



### Wonder Lake Community Resources

## **Gov. Pritzker Announces \$42 Million Water Assistance Program for Low-Income Households**

Press Release - Tuesday, December 07, 2021

To help low-income families unable to pay water and sewer bills avoid shutoffs, Governor JB Pritzker and DCEO recently announced the new \$42 million Low-Income Household Water Assistance Plan (LIHWAP), under the Help Illinois Families (HIF) initiative.

LIHWAP recognizes the immense economic toll that the COVID-19 pandemic has taken on residents statewide. Households are finding it difficult to keep up with their utility bills, including water and sewer bills. The new funds are being made available to low-income families who are facing disconnection, those who have already been shut off, or those currently facing arrearages of \$250 or more.

Eligibility for LIHWAP, like LIHEAP and other household assistance programs offered by the state, is income dependent. To be eligible, Illinois families must demonstrate that they are within 200 percent of the federal poverty line. For a family of four, this means combined income of \$54,000 or less. To find out if you are eligible, please visit [helpillinoisfamilies.com](https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/CommunityServices/HomeWeatherization/CommunityActionAgencies/Pages/HelpIllinoisFamilies.aspx). LIHWAP applications will be accepted now through August 31, 2023 or until funds are exhausted.

Families have several options when seeking water and utility assistance funds. Eligible applicants can visit DCEO's website [helpillinoisfamilies.com](https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/CommunityServices/HomeWeatherization/CommunityActionAgencies/Pages/HelpIllinoisFamilies.aspx) to fill out a request for service form, can contact the hotline at 1-833-711-0374

This online page describes all available services  
<https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/CommunityServices/HomeWeatherization/CommunityActionAgencies/Pages/HelpIllinoisFamilies.aspx>

Contact the hotline service at 1-833-711-0374

# EMERGENCY RELIEF FOR HOUSEHOLDS ACROSS THE STATE

The Pritzker Administration, in partnership with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), is leveraging federal ARPA funds in the State's 2022 budget to expand assistance and eligibility to serve more families with emergency relief programs as part of the Help Illinois Families initiative.



## More assistance for more needs

Help Illinois Families expands on the existing Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Community Services Block Program (CSBG). If you meet the income requirements and submit your application, you may be eligible for emergency assistance to cover the costs of utility bills, rent, temporary shelter, food, and other household necessities.



Water/  
Service  
Payment



Food



Financial  
Management



Energy  
Utility Bill  
Assistance



Rental  
Assistance



Temporary  
Shelter



Employment  
Training/  
Placement

LIHEAP helps eligible low-income households pay for home energy services. This includes assistance with heating, gas, propane and electricity. More information on services available in your region can be found by visiting your Local Administering Agency (LAA) page.

CSBG offers Illinoisans an opportunity to receive support for an array of essential services including rent assistance, food, temporary shelter, medicine and more. Check your local Community Action Agency (CAA) page for a list of available services near you.

### Assistance to more Illinois individuals and families

New eligibility thresholds make Help Illinois Families available to more individuals and families, in response to the bigger challenges many are facing due to COVID-19. But the program will still be available to all current qualifying low-income households, regardless of how COVID-19 has affected them.

### An easy online Request for Service form process

An online Request for Service form lets you determine your eligibility and start the application process remotely. All applications will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis.

### Application dates and deadlines

Expanded LIHEAP assistance and eligibility applies to applications for the 2022 financial year. These open on September 1, 2021 to May 31, 2022.

CSBG applications are available year-round. The expanded assistance and eligibility already applies to all CSBG applications.

## Am I eligible?

If you need help with basic household amenities covered by the programs mentioned above and believe that you may be income-eligible, please review the following before submitting an application:

**1.** Is my household income within 200% of federal poverty level? If your household's combined income for the 30 days prior to application (gross income for all household members, before taxes are deducted) is at or below 200% of the federal poverty level\*, as shown in the chart below, you may be eligible to receive assistance.

### 2020 Federal Poverty Guidelines for 200% of Poverty for 2021 Program Year

Family Size (total number in household)	30-Day Income	Annual Income
1	\$2,147	\$25,760
2	\$2,903	\$34,840
3	\$3,660	\$43,920
4	\$4,417	\$53,000
5	\$5,173	\$62,080
6	\$5,930	\$71,160

\*Program Year 2022 Income Guidelines are based on Federal Poverty Guidelines and State Median Income. The state reserves the right to adjust these levels based on the availability of federal appropriations.

**2.** What documentation do I need to prove eligibility? For each household member, please have the following documents ready to confirm eligibility with your LAA or CAA: proof of social security numbers or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) for all household members. Individuals without an SSN or ITIN can still apply and their LAA will advise accordingly; proof of income over last 30 days through paystub, check or copy of check showing fixed income amount (e.g. SSA, VA, DHS benefits) or other proof of documentation for any income source; and utility bill if seeking utility bill assistance or lease if seeking rental assistance.

### Start your application!

If you think you are eligible, it is time to start your **Application for Services** here.

Request Services in  
Cook County

Request Services in  
Other Counties

If you believe you are eligible and do NOT need assistance from a live agent, it's time to start your Request for Service form online. Start by visiting [helpillinoisfamilies.com](http://helpillinoisfamilies.com) to identify your county which will route you to the Request for Service form linked to the CAA or LAA servicing your county. If you need assistance with completing and submitting your application, contact the call center at 1-833-711-0374

### Check Request for Service form status

After your Request for Service form has been submitted, your LAA or CAA will contact you as quickly as possible to confirm eligibility and determine the amount of your LIHEAP and/or CSBG benefit. Please keep in mind the volume of requests is very large given the impact of COVID-19 and it may take longer for your application to be processed. Applications will be processed in order of when the application is received - check status with your local CAA or LAA.

### Help Illinois Families

is administered by DCEO's Office of Community Assistance. DCEO manages three federal programs; Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG), and the Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program (IHWAP).