



## The Low Income Household Water Assistance Program will open November 1, 2022

**ATLANTA** — The Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP), administered by the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services, will be available November 1, 2022. This federally funded program assists low-income households with past due bills, elderly, and disabled Georgians with heating bills through direct payments to home water suppliers.

Beginning November 1, 2022, residents with past due bills can apply for assistance through the Department's Low Income Household Water Assistance Program. Household with elderly 60 years of age and older and households that have children 5 years of age and younger will be able to apply in January 2023. All other eligible residents may apply for assistance beginning February 1, 2023. Funds are administered through local Community Action Agencies on a first-come, first-served basis until all funds are exhausted.

To qualify, a family's annual income must be less than or equal to 60 percent of the median income for a Georgia family. For a household of one, the income threshold is \$28,058; the income threshold for a household of five is \$62,591.

Those seeking assistance must contact their local Community Action Agencies. All applicants must provide the following:

1. Most recent water bill or statement of service from their water service providers;
2. Social Security numbers for each member of the household;
3. Proof of Citizenship for each member of the household;
4. Proof of Income for the last 30 days for each adult member of the household;
  - a. Proof of Income can include, but is not limited to, a paycheck stub or a letter granting public assistance, and,
5. Social Security or unemployment benefits for all household members, if applicable.

For more information on the program, contact the Division of Family and Children Services at 404-657-3426. To find a Community Action Agency in your area, visit <http://www.georgiacaa.org>.



**STATE PLAN  
LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
FACT SHEET  
2022-2023**

The Division of Family and Children Services will assist with four (4) program elements:

- (1) Regular Energy Assistance Program
- (2) Crisis Intervention Assistance
- (3) Cooling Assistance Program
- (4) Weatherization Element

The **Regular Energy Assistance Program** will provide financial assistance on behalf of and to households meeting three requirements:

- (1) Income at or below 60% of Georgia's state median income level.

One-Person Household	\$28,058
Two-Person Household	\$36,690
Three-Person Household	\$45,324
Four-Person Household	\$53,957
Five-Person Household	\$62,591
Six-Person Household	\$71,224
Seven-Person Household	\$72,842
Eight-Person Household	\$74,461

**\*In households with nine or more persons, add \$1,619.00 for each additional household member.**

- (2) Responsibility for paying the cost of energy for the **primary** home heating source.
- (3) U.S. citizenship or legally admitted alien.

This financial assistance will be primarily in the form of locally issued checks to home energy suppliers on behalf of eligible households. The amount of aid to homeowners and non-subsidized renters who receive a bill for fuel will depend on the projected gross annual household income, household size, and payment schedule or increased cost of home heating energy. Subsidized housing tenants whose fuel cost is included in their rental payment are ineligible to receive assistance.

The Regular Energy Assistance benefits will range from \$350 to \$500. This one-time benefit payment is projected to average approximately \$481.97 to low-income households. The program will begin to take applications on November 1, 2022, to serve only those households that meet the definition of Homebound or Elderly. The general public will be able to apply on December 1, 2022.

The program is scheduled to operate until March 31, 2023, or until all funds are exhausted, whichever comes first.

**Crisis Intervention Assistance** is provided to eligible households after completing the application within 48 hours and 18 hours in a life-threatening situation. The applications for assistance are taken at accessible locations statewide and in the homes of those who are homebound and unable to travel to any of the sites. An emergency opening of the Energy Crisis Intervention Program is determined by severe and unusual weather-related conditions or crises resulting in the loss of fuel services or potential loss. The Governor, their appointee, or the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services declares all weather-related crises.

The State will ensure that Energy Crisis Intervention funds are available until June 30, 2023. Financial assistance will be in the form of a vendor check written at the local level. The amount of the aid will be determined by household income, which must be at or below 60% of Georgia's Median Income, the household size, and the household need, up to the maximum benefit of \$500 per household. The eligibility guidelines are the same as with the Regular Energy Assistance Program.

**Cooling Assistance** The eligibility requirements described in the Regular Energy Assistance Program will be used for this component. Priority will be placed on the elderly and homebound during the program's first month. The benefits approved will be in direct money payments to the provider of their cooling source of energy. Fans and air conditioners are not purchased from LIHEAP funds. The eligibility for cooling assistance is not dependent on eligibility for winter heating. This program's eligibility will be at or below 60% of the state's median income.

**Weatherization** The Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority's Division of Energy Resources currently administers the State Weatherization Program. The low-cost residential weatherization activities will provide immediate energy-conserving improvements to the homes of low-income citizens to reduce long-term home energy consumption. Priority of services, which include installing ceiling insulation, windows, caulking, and weather-stripping, is given to the elderly and disabled. Local nonprofit organizations provide local Weatherization assistance services. The cost for weatherization of each dwelling must not exceed \$7,776. To be eligible, the household's total income must be at or below 200% of the poverty level.



## FY 2023 Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) Eligibility Guidelines

### ESTIMATED ANNUAL INCOME

Household Size	Level I Income (\$300 benefit)		Level II Income (\$200 benefit)	
	1	\$0	\$18,238	\$18,239
2	\$0	\$23,849	\$23,850	\$36,690
3	\$0	\$29,460	\$29,461	\$45,324
4	\$0	\$35,072	\$35,073	\$53,957
5	\$0	\$40,684	\$40,685	\$62,591
6	\$0	\$46,296	\$46,297	\$71,224
7	\$0	\$47,347	\$47,348	\$72,842
8	\$0	\$48,399	\$48,400	\$74,461
9	\$0	\$49,452	\$49,453	\$76,080
10	\$0	\$50,504	\$50,505	\$77,698
11	\$0	\$51,556	\$51,557	\$79,317
12	\$0	\$52,609	\$52,610	\$80,936
13	\$0	\$53,660	\$53,661	\$82,555
14	\$0	\$54,712	\$54,713	\$84,173
15	\$0	\$55,764	\$55,765	\$85,791
16	\$0	\$56,817	\$56,818	\$87,411

Payment Assistance Schedule for All Fuel Types	
Income Level	Benefit Amount
Level I	\$300
Level II	\$200

Source: DHHS LIHWAP-IM-2022-05, September 27, 2022

Effective: October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023

Note: GA 60% SMI for 4 person is \$53,957