

LI-HEAP, ECIP, and Weatherization

By Isabelle Warren, TRC Co-Director

(The information in this article is provided from personal knowledge and not a document of the program providers. The article is placed here because of special concern for our children, our elderly and our disabled residents which continues to be expressed by community members and workers. Our concern is for those who may not see themselves as potential client households. The funding is intended to serve and help households do more with the income they have. I encourage potential clients to avail themselves of these services and make that phone call for an appointment or for more information.)

As winter settles in staying warm comes right to the front of our minds. If keeping warm is a concern for you the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Energy Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP) and Weatherization programs of Penquis may be able to help you. Appointments for applications are available at Penquis offices in Bangor (973-3630), Dover-Foxcroft (564-7116), Lincoln (794-3093) and Millinocket (723-8155) as well as locations in Knox County (596-0361) for residents of Knox County. The application period is October 1, 2009 through April 30, 2010.

Applications for LIHEAP, ECIP and Weatherization are based on the LIHEAP application. The LIHEAP application must be complete and certified to be eligible for ECIP and/or Weatherization. LIHEAP applies a credit to the client's energy account one time per application period. The program must be notified if changes occur after the application is made such as moving to a new residence or changing fuel dealer. An increase or decrease in income after the application date is not relevant to the application since the application is based on a time period before the application is made.

ECIP funding is available at intervals only during the LIHEAP application period. It is not a year round program. ECIP can be used for emergency fuel deliveries (with specific limitations) and to prevent electricity disconnections (only if the disconnection is due to a broken payment arrangement). Client households are expected to meet their own needs to whatever extent possible before requesting ECIP. When household resources are insufficient and an emergency situation exists ECIP can and does help one time per application period. ECIP eligibility is determined only after a household's LIHEAP application is certified. If the LIHEAP benefit has not been used at the time an ECIP application is made the LIHEAP benefit is sent to the energy provider as a credit on the client's account and is generally larger than the emergency benefit.

Weatherization is done as funds allow based on information on the LIHEAP application which includes responding "Yes" to the question asking if you want to be considered for weatherization services. Services will vary according to identified needs of the household. Additionally help may be available from the Community Development program of your community. For more information about Community Development help, please, call your town office.

Applicants are best served when prepared for their appointments. Specific documentation is needed to process each household's application. Documentation is required for every household member residing in the home when the application is made. Prepare for your appointment by gathering and bringing with you:

1. Social Security numbers and dates of birth for each household member.
(You do not have to bring Social Security cards or birth certificates, but you do need to know the information for your application.)
2. If you are renting your application must provide the name, address and telephone number of your landlord.
3. Bring the most recent copy of your electric and telephone bill.
4. Bring a fuel company receipt or bill that shows the name of the fuel company and your account number.
5. Bring proof of all interest income, child support, and general assistance income for whichever time period in which you are applying. This is typically the three months before the month in which you are applying. Some applications are based on a twelve month period.
6. Bring proof of all gross income for all household members who have income who are residing in the household when the application is taken. Gross income is the total amount of income and the amount before taxes and other withholdings are taken out.

Proof of income is necessary for the three months before the month in which you are making your application if you are applying on the most commonly used three month time period. If applying based on a twelve month time period you will need proof of gross income for the twelve months preceding the month in which you make your application. It is important to be aware that paid medical expenses for which you provide receipts and mileage to appointments can reduce your income for eligibility purposes.

It is important to be aware that for this LIHEAP season Social Security and Veterans Administration pensioners/recipients must bring a letter from Social Security and/or the Veterans Administration stating the monthly income amount. This letter is generally sent from them in December or a duplicate can be obtained by contacting the appropriate office. Clients are encouraged to save this letter in a safe place until it is needed for an application next year.

LIHEAP and Weatherization Poverty Guidelines
10-1-2009 to 4-30-2010

GROSS HOUSEHOLD INCOME CHART

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>GENERAL HOUSEHOLD GUIDELINES</p> <p>200 % OF POVERTY IN DOLLAR AMOUNTS</p> | <p>GUIDELINES FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH A MEMBER 60 AND OVER OR A CHILD UNDER 24 MONTHS</p> <p>230 % OF POVERTY IN DOLLAR AMOUNTS</p> |
|---|---|

| # | 1 MONTH*** | 3 MONTHS | 12 MONTHS | # | 1 MONTH*** | 3 MONTHS | 12 MONTHS |
|---|------------|----------|-----------|---|------------|----------|-----------|
| 1 | 1805 | 5415 | 21660 | 1 | 2075 | 6227 | 24909 |
| 2 | 2428 | 7285 | 29140 | 2 | 2792 | 8378 | 33511 |
| 3 | 3052 | 9155 | 36620 | 3 | 3509 | 10528 | 42113 |
| 4 | 3675 | 11025 | 44100 | 4 | 4184 | 12553 | 50211 |
| 5 | 4298 | 12895 | 51580 | 5 | 4853 | 14561 | 58245 |
| 6 | 4921 | 14765 | 59060 | 6 | 5523 | 16570 | 66279 |
| 7 | 5545 | 16635 | 66540 | 7 | 5648 | 16946 | 67785 |
| 8 | 5774 | 17323 | 69291 | 8 | 5774 | 17323 | 69291 |

FOR EACH ADDITIONAL HOUSEHOLD MEMBER ADD :

| | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|------|--|-----|-----|------|
| | 125 | 377 | 1506 | | 125 | 377 | 1506 |
|--|-----|-----|------|--|-----|-----|------|

*** The one month certification has special requirements rarely met by applicants.