

## 2024-2025 Season • (LIHEAP) Low Income Fuel Assistance Home Heating & Energy

The Massachusetts' home energy assistance program (LIHEAP) is a free resource, offered by Making Opportunity Count in partnership with the Department of Housing and Community Development, to help eligible households pay a portion of winter heating bills. The program is 100% free for those who qualify. Beware of scams by people charging an "application fee" to help submit an application.

### What you need to Apply for home heating and energy assistance

- Homeowners and renters, including households whose cost of heat is included in the rent, can [apply in person at the agency in their area](#) or through the [online application](#).
- Eligibility is based on household size and the gross annual income of every household member, 18 years of age or older.
- Household income cannot exceed 60% of estimated State Median Income
- This program provides assistance through a fixed benefit amount for the cost of the primary source of heat with includes, but is not limited to: Oil, Electricity, Natural gas, Propane, Kerosene, Wood, and Coal.
- Payments for actual usage or fuel delivery are made directly to the heating vendor for primary energy needs from November 1st to April 30th.

### Eligibility/Selection Criteria

- There are a variety of factors that impact the eligibility of a household.
- Eligibility is based on household size and the gross annual income of every household member, 18 years of age or older.
- Household income cannot exceed [60% of estimated State Median Income](#)
- Please contact the local fuel assistance agency for detailed information on criteria used for eligibility.
- Housing subsidies will also determine the specific benefit level.

### How to apply Apply for home heating and energy assistance

The online application opens on **October 1** for the upcoming heating season (**November 1, 2024 – April 30, 2025**). You can apply **online**, **in person** at the LIHEAP agency in your area, or by **mail**. Households must apply each year.

- First time applicants must participate in an intake appointment, to get started please submit an online application or [contact](#) your local agency.
- Applications are mailed to households after the first year and can be [renewed online](#), in person, or by mail.
- Applicants who are denied assistance have the right to appeal the decision through their local home energy assistance agency.

### Necessary Documents

As part of the application process, please be prepared to share necessary information, including but not limited to:

- photo identification for the head of household or primary applicant (e.g. driver's license)
- a list of all household members
- information on your heating bills (e.g. heating company name and account number)
- information on your housing situation (e.g. an active lease or mortgage statement)
- proof of income for 30 days prior to application date (e.g. wages, pension)

## Available options to apply - ALL SITES BELOW ARE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

1. Visit [www.toapply.org/MassLIHEAP](http://www.toapply.org/MassLIHEAP) and start your Fuel Assistance application through their online portal

**OR**

2. Visit 165B Mill Street, Leominster, to make an appointment in-person

**OR**

3. Call the number corresponding to the sites below for an appointment in-person

Please note: In order to complete your application in an efficient manner, please gather the required documents noted, to bring to your scheduled appointment. **In some instances**, you may need additional documents, besides the ones requested, to complete your respective application. For the Athol Senior Center site, we have a list of required documents that you must pick up in-person, prior to making your actual appointment. By doing so, your application should be more efficient with regards to Montachusett Opportunity Count (MOC) being able to process your Fuel Assistance Application.

**1. Athol Senior Center 978-249-8986 Ages 60+ Pick up required document list before making appt.**  
82 Freedom Street, Athol, MA 01331

**2.Barre/Hardwick Senior Center 978-342-4520**  
9:00AM - 2:00PM | 57 S Barre Road, Barre, MA 01005

**3.Spanish American Center 978-342-4520**  
9:00AM - 12:00PM | 112 Spruce Street, Leominster, MA 01453

**4.Gardner Community Action 978-632-8700**  
9:00AM - 3:00PM | 294 Pleasant Street, Gardner, MA 01440

**5. North Quabbin Patch 978-342-4520**  
9:00AM - 3:00PM | 109 Lumber Street, Unit 5, 2nd Floor, Athol, MA 01331

**6. MOC Mill Street Emergencies 978-342-4520**  
9:00AM - 4:00PM | 165 Mill Street, Suite B, Leominster, MA 01453

**7. MOC Nursery Lane 978-342-4520**  
9:00AM - 5:00PM | 49 Nursery Lane, Suite 201, Fitchburg, MA 01420

**8. Salvation Army 978-249-8111** 107 Ridge Ave., Athol, MA 01331