

Regular Home Energy Assistance

<http://dfcs.dhr.georgia.gov/portal/site/DHS-DFCS/menuitem.5d32235bb09bde9a50c8798dd03036a0/?vgnextoid=674a2b48d9a4ff00VgnVCM100000bf01010aRCRD>

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 assistance to both homeowners and non-subsidized renters who receive a bill for their fuel cost will be \$350 while funds are available. Eligibility will depend on the projected total gross annual household income or characteristics of the household and the household size.

Subsidized housing tenants whose fuel cost is included in their rental payment are ineligible to receive assistance. These households are considered to be the least vulnerable for home energy assistance.

The Cooling Energy Assistance benefit is \$350 and is projected to provide a one-time benefit payment for approximately 20,000 low-income households. If other funds become available, additional households on waiting lists may be served during or after August until funds are exhausted or the program is closed.

Energy Assistance programs are typically provided through local community action agencies serving all Georgia counties. To apply, contact your local non-profit community-action agency or call the Department of Human Services (DHS as of July 1, 2009, formerly DHR) toll-free 1-800-869-1150 or 404-656-2323 in the Atlanta metro area to get the local contact number in your county.

See the www.georgiacaa.org/member.htm website for agencies administering this program and contact information. See our "How to Apply" page for exceptions.

After the program starts, if funds are not available when you inquire, ask to be placed on a waiting list. Waiting lists are not allowed before the program opens.

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program will provide financial assistance on behalf of and to households meeting three requirements:

1. Income at or below 200% of the poverty level
2.
 - \$21,660 for a one-person household;
 - \$29,140 for a two-person household;
 - \$36,620 for a three-person household;
 - \$44,100 for a four-person household;
 - \$51,580 for a five-person household;
 - \$59,060 for a six-person household;
 - \$66,540 for a seven-person household;
 - \$74,020 for a eight-person; and add \$7,480 for each additional household member for larger households.
3. Responsibility for paying the cost of energy for the primary home cooling source.
4. Are U.S. citizens or legally admitted aliens.

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Note: The Winter-Heating Program begins Nov 2, 2009, for the elderly (age 65 & over), homebound, and those with life-threatening circumstances. The Winter program opens Dec. 1, 2009, for the general public with different income-eligibility criteria. Energy Program applicants are served in a first-come, first-serve basis by each agency, for energy programs in their service counties.

Many agencies will make appointments over the phone to apply for benefits rather than require applicants to visit the agency initially. Contact the local agency to ask what procedures are in your county.