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2018 FACT SHEET ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)

Established in 1981, LIHEAP is a federally funded program that helps low-income households pay their energy bill. Assistance is in the form of a dual or single party warrant or a direct payment to a utility company on behalf of an eligible applicant. Eligibility is based on the household's total monthly income, which cannot exceed the 2018 LIHEAP Income Guidelines listed below. Because of significant funding cuts, the federal government enacted a law requiring that states target households with low-incomes and high energy costs, taking into consideration households with elderly and disabled persons, and children under six. This means there could be households that received assistance in the past and will no longer receive assistance because they fall into a low priority group and are not considered among the neediest of the needy. The amount of assistance is based on the number of persons in the household, total gross household income, the cost of energy within the county the households resides, and funding availability. LIHEAP provides one payment per program year. The statewide maximum payment for program year 2018 is \$538, the minimum payment is \$142, and the average statewide payment is \$291. Under most circumstances, it takes approximately six weeks to process an application and pay the applicant. However, an incomplete/incorrect application will take additional time to process. Persons living in board-and-care facilities, nursing or convalescent homes, or in jail or prison, are not eligible for LIHEAP.

The local community services agencies are responsible for processing applications and the Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) is responsible for issuing LIHEAP payments. To find out how to apply for services, please call **HEAP at 925-681-6380**.

Utility companies throughout the state offer reduced rate programs. Customers should contact their utility company to find out if they offer such a program and to request an application.

WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Weatherization is the process of making your home more "air tight" and energy efficient. The goal is to keep the warm air in and the cold air out in the winter; and keep the cold air in and the warm air out in the summer. Weatherizing your home could help lower your energy usage and utility costs. Your home will be assessed to determine what weatherization work can be done. The most common types of weatherization include: sealing the holes and cracks, insulation, weather stripping, fixing windows, water heater blankets and making sure your heating and air condition systems are working correctly.

Free weatherization services are available to low income property owners and renters. Eligibility is based on the household's total monthly income, which cannot exceed the income guidelines listed below. To find out if you qualify, you must contact your local service provider. To find out how to apply for services, please call **Weatherization at 925-674-7214**.

2018 LIHEAP INCOME GUIDELINES	
Size of Household	Monthly Income
1	2,097.98
2	2,743.52
3	3,389.05
4	4,034.58
5	4,680.12
6	5,325.65
7	5,446.69
8	5,567.73
9	5,688.76
10	5,809.80
NOTE: Income amounts for family sizes greater than six persons were determined based on the following calculation: Add 3% to 132% for each additional family member, multiply the new percentage by \$48,415, and divide by 12. Example: household size of 7: 132% + 3% = 135% x \$48,415 = \$65,360.25 / 12 = \$5,446.69 per month.	