

YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PAY HEATING BILLS!

Financial Assistance is Available for Households That Pay for Heat in Their Rent or Condominium Fees!

Particularly during these difficult times, it is important that Marylanders have access to benefits that help cover heating costs, even if they pay for their heat as a part of another bill. The Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) provides financial assistance to pay heating bills in the form of Energy Assistance Grants (that do not require repayment) -- even for those without a heating bill in their own name.

Who is eligible for MEAP Energy Assistance Grants?

Renters and condominium owners, residents of public housing, individuals living in sub-metered buildings, and roomers/boarders may be eligible if their heating bill is included in the rent or condominium fee.

Two key factors that determine eligibility for Energy Assistance Grants are the size of the household and the total amount of pre-tax money that all of the members of the household made in the last 30 days.

Income Eligibility Limits Effective July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021	
(Based on 175% of the Federal Poverty Level)	
Household Size	Maximum Gross Monthly Income Standards
1	\$1,861
2	\$2,515
3	\$3,168
4	\$3,821
5	\$4,475
6	\$5,128
7	\$5,781
8	\$6,435
For Each Additional Person, Add	\$645

How are benefits applied if heating costs are included in the rent or condominium fees?

If heating costs are included in the rent that is paid to the landlord or to the management company, an eligible household may receive a MEAP Energy Assistance Grant if the landlord completes and signs the Agreement that any benefit payments received on behalf of that household will reduce that household's rent by the amount of the benefit.

Likewise, if heating costs are included in the condominium fee that is paid to the association or its management company, an eligible household may receive a MEAP Energy Assistance Grant if the condominium association (and the landlord if the condominium unit is rented) complete(s) and sign(s) the Agreement(s) that any benefit payments received on behalf of that household will reduce only the "regular condominium fee" balance on the condominium owner's account by the amount of the benefit.

Benefit payments will be forwarded directly to the landlord or to the condominium association if the appropriate form(s) are completed and signed by the landlord and/or condominium association, along with proof of the property's heating source. If the household is not responsible for

paying heating costs directly and the unit is subsidized, the renter may not be eligible for a MEAP Energy Assistance Grant.

Households that pay their heating costs directly must identify their energy supplier and fuel type at the time of application. If a household is determined to be eligible, the MEAP Energy Assistance Grant is paid to the energy supplier for fuel delivery and/or credit on account.

How does someone apply?

You can apply online at: <https://mydhrbenefits.dhr.state.md.us/dashboardClient/#/home>

To receive a paper application, call 1-800-332-6347. Paper applications can be dropped off at the County's Office of Home Energy Programs (OHEP) or submitted by mail.

For general questions or information about other programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), call 1-800-332-6347.

To apply for energy assistance, the renter(s) or condominium owner(s) will need to provide copies of:

- The applicant's photo ID-Government-issued Identification cards (current or expired);
- Social Security Number for everyone in the household;
- Proof of all income for the last 30 days for everyone in the household; and
- A copy of the lease, condominium association budget, or other agreements detailing the heating arrangements.

For a full list of documents that can be accepted, go to: <https://dhs.maryland.gov/ocf-of-home-energy-programs/acceptable-documents-energy-assistance/>