

**Program Name:** LIHEAP (Fuel Assistance)

**Description:**

Known commonly as Fuel Assistance, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides eligible households with help in paying a portion of winter heating bills.

This program provides assistance through a fixed benefit amount for the cost of the primary source of heat which includes, but is not limited to:

- Oil
- Electricity
- Natural Gas
- Propane
- Kerosene
- Wood
- Coal

**Eligibility:**

In order to be eligible for the Fuel Assistance Program, you have to live in Hampden County (except Springfield), and your family income has to be at or below 60% of Estimated State Median Income. Families that live in public housing are not eligible because they are state or federally aided. Families who have heat included and meet income and residence eligibility are eligible. For those families that have heat included and have a subsidy, they must pay over 30% of their income towards rent in order to be eligible.

<b>Family Size (# of people in the Household )</b>	<b>60% estimated state median income</b>
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1	\$32,065.00
2	\$41,932.00
3	\$51,798.00
4	\$61,664.00
5	\$71,530.00
6	\$81,396.00

**How Do I apply for Fuel Assistance?**

If you are applying for Fuel Assistance for the first time, please contact Barbara Harrington to schedule an intake appointment. You will be asked to bring information with you to your intake appointment at (413) 596-8379; this information includes household, income, housing and heating source documentation. Missing information will delay your eligibility.

**All information is kept CONFIDENTIAL**

**What if I have applied for Fuel Assistance within the last year?**

A re-certification application for Fuel Assistance should have been mailed to you. Valley Opportunity Council has sent out the 2013-2014 Fuel Assistance Applications by October 1, 2013. If you have not received your application by that date, or if you have lost or misplaced your application, please contact the Energy Department at (413) 552-1548 or Barbara Harrington at (413) 596-8379. Please be sure to send in all information with your fuel application as quickly as possible so that Fuel Assistance can review and process your application.