

Senator Lieberman's Energy Assistance Tip Sheet

There has been an immense increase in the number of Connecticut residents experiencing financial hardship due to the rising cost of fuel, and those prices threaten to impose an even greater burden this winter. If you or someone you know will need assistance this winter with their energy bills, Senator Lieberman urges you to review the following resources, which may be useful to you in your search for assistance:

- Connecticut Light & Power (CL&P) offers several assistance programs to customers who meet certain criteria. One of the most utilized programs is the Winter Protection Plan. This plan is available for customers who lack the financial resources to pay their electric bill. Customers who qualify will receive protection from shut-off from November 1 through May 1. This plan must be renewed annually and begins in October. For more information regarding this program and others that may be available, please contact CL&P directly at 800-286-2000 or in the Hartford area at 860-947-2000. You may also visit its web site at <http://www.clp.com/Home/CustomerService/AssistancePrograms/FinancialAssistance.aspx>.
- The Connecticut Department of Social Services' (DSS) Energy & Refugee Services Unit has listed on its web site the current household income and asset guidelines, along with a list of frequently asked questions regarding the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP), which is administered by DSS. Those who are homebound due to illness or disability may request that an agency representative visit their home to take their application. CEAP can be reached directly at 800-842-1132, or you may contact the 2-1-1 Infoline for a list of Community Action Agencies that service your area. CEAP application sites and related materials will be available in September 2008. For more information, please visit the DSS web site for CEAP's "Energy Assistance – Guidelines" and "Frequently Asked Questions" at <http://www.ct.gov/dss/cwp/view.asp?a=2353&q=305188>.
- 2-1-1 is a free community service administered by the United Way of Connecticut. This service is supported by the State of Connecticut and Connecticut's various United Ways. You can contact 2-1-1 to obtain general information or to seek help in a crisis. This service is open 24 hours a day and can be reached by simply dialing 2-1-1 or 1-800-203-1234. For information on energy assistance/utilities programs in Connecticut, visit <http://www.infoline.org/informationlibrary/energy.asp>; or you can utilize the 2-1-1 Infoline navigator to search for referrals by visiting its home page at <http://www.infoline.org/>.
- For information on other state and private energy/utility assistance programs in Connecticut, please visit the Citizen's Energy Corporation web site at <http://www.citizensenergy.com/english/pages/116/connecticut>.
- For a listing of federal, state, and local agencies that offer a variety of services to Connecticut residents, you may find the following guidebook

helpful; it is entitled “Programs that Help People in Connecticut” and is available at <http://www.cahs.org/publications/documents/06-08PTHPCTProviderDir.pdf>.