

Program Guidelines

The Community Development Department shall provide all potential clients the opportunity to apply for the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program. Low-income households who have an income at or below 125% of Poverty Income Guidelines and who are unable to meet their household energy needs are afforded this opportunity.

No household is entitled to a preset amount of assistance. Assistance is provided on a first come first serve basis as long as funds are available. A “household” means any individual or group of individuals who live together as one economic unit and customarily purchase residential energy in common or who make undesignated payments for energy in the form of rent.

Components of the Grant Elderly/Disabled

The elderly/disabled component is intended to assist elderly individuals who are 60 years of age or older. A disabled household is defined as a household with at least one member, age 18 or older, who has a disability. Documentation of disability must be provided through one of the following:

1. Social Security Disability (SSDI)
2. Supplement Social Security Income (SSI)
3. A doctor's letter stating that the individual has a disability that will last more than twelve (12) months.



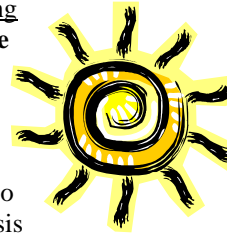
In order to avoid duplication of applicants those individuals that meet the above criteria that are disabled age 60 or above can call for an appointment to Neighborhood House (741-0459). Individuals that are disabled age 59 and younger can call Life Independent Living Centers (795-5433).

The Program does not allow payments for deposits, reconnect, or late fees or penalties. The service must be on and remain on.

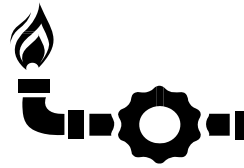
Energy Crisis

A bona fide energy crisis exists when extraordinary events or situations resulting from extreme weather conditions or fuel supply shortages have depleted or will deplete household financial resources and or have created problems in meeting basic household expenses.

Under Energy Crisis the Billing Cycle must have **at least three (3) days** in which the temperature dropped to 26° or below or during the summer 95° or above. The Department (TDHCA) can also declare a statewide energy crisis and the above criteria would not have to be met.

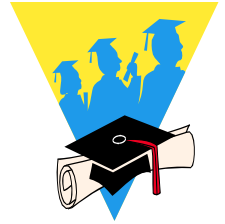


This program pays for usage only of electricity or gas for the Crisis Cycle, no arrears, late charges, or deposits. Service must be on and remain on. Neighborhood House will also operate this program call for appointment at 741-0459.



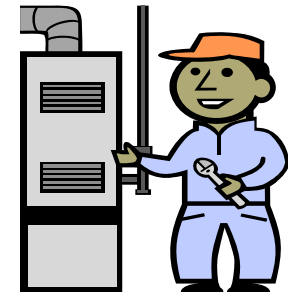
Co-Pay

The Co-payment component is to achieve long-term energy self-sufficiency by reducing the energy cost burden for low-income households through case management activities. Co-payment clients must enroll for a minimum period of three months and report to the Case Manager monthly and attend workshops. This component is meant more for a client who works, attends school, or they are trying to improve their lives. They must have a steady stream of income to pay their portion of co-pay. The Applicant must be considered a good case management client to enroll. Catholic Family Services operates this component call 765-8475 for more details.



Heating/Cooling & Appliance

The heating/cooling and appliance component emphasizes energy reduction in the home through repair, replacement, or retrofitting of heating systems, cooling systems, water heaters and refrigerators. The home must have an appliance in place that is inefficient. Referrals to this program will come from the other three components, however, it is a standalone component and referrals will be taken from the public. Applicants must meet all program guidelines to receive services. Call 775-3081 for more information.



Energy Tips

Use ceiling or oscillating fans to keep air moving, so you feel cooler without increasing air-conditioner use.

Dry laundry loads right after each other so your dryer doesn't have to reheat for each load and do it during cooler periods of the day and night in the summer, clean lint tray after each load.

In summer, turning the thermostat up will keep cost down, in the winter set at 70. New studies indicate that the heating and cooling system will run less if you keep it at one temperature setting, also limit temperature variances to 3 degrees.

The average home built prior to 1990 can let in as much outside air as a medium- sized window left wide open. Caulking around windows, doors and plumbing penetrations will put the plug on wasted energy.

Every time you open the oven door while cooking, you lose 25 to 30 degrees, even if it's just a peek.

Fluorescent lights use up to 75% less energy than standard light bulbs and last up to 10 times longer. Make the change and keep the change in your pocket.

Shade west-facing windows and walls to reduce afternoon temperatures 30 to 40 degrees.

In summer, use shades, blinds or curtains to keep sunlight out, especially in the afternoon in rooms facing west.

Don't block return air vents or ducts inside the house. This enables your cooling and heating systems to work more efficiently.

Cutting a 15-minute shower in half can save substantially on yearly hot-water costs.

Lights, stereos, computers and televisions are sometimes referred to as vampires because they're so often left on, calmly using electricity. Much of that power is converted to heat, fighting the cooling system all summer.

Use correct wattage six 25 watt bulbs provide the same light as one 100- watt bulb, but six bulbs use more energy than one.



Community Development Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program

The City of Lubbock receives an Energy Assistance Grant from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. The Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) is designed to assist low-income persons with energy assistance.

The primary goal of the Texas Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program is fourfold:

1. To assist a household in developing goals for energy self-sufficiency through case management and a co-payment utility plan.
2. To provide relief to low-income elderly and disabled households most vulnerable to the high cost of energy from home heating and cooling.
3. To provide assistance in an energy related crisis.
4. To address inefficient home heating and cooling appliances through a retrofit, repair and replacement program.

Priority shall be given to households with the lowest incomes that pay a high proportion of their income for residential energy. Priority populations are the elderly, disabled and families with young children under six years of age.

The City of Lubbock subcontracts with local agencies to operate the three utility components and administers the heating/cooling component in-house. Services are provided to residents of Lubbock County including homeowners and renters.