

# New Jersey Weatherization and Energy Assistance Program Toolkit

Are you looking to save money on utility bills, conserve energy, or improve the comfort of your home through weatherization? This toolkit will help connect you to the most appropriate resource. It includes various federal, state, and utility-provider ran programs, with a particular focus on services for low-to-moderate income residents, renters, and multi-family properties.

The toolkit is part of the Network’s ongoing effort to consolidate information about subsidized weatherization and energy bill assistance into one comprehensive resource. You can also access the resources outlined in this toolkit in [spreadsheet](#) or [map](#) form.

<b>STATE AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>LOW INCOME HOUSING ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>NEW JERSEY WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>NEW JERSEY SHARES</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>NEW JERSEY PAGE</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>NEW JERSEY COMFORT PARTNERS</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>UTILITY-PROVIDED PROGRAMS</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>QUICK HOME ENERGY CHECK UPS</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>HOME PERFORMANCE WITH ENERGY STAR®</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>INCOME-QUALIFIED WEATHERIZATION</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>MULTI-FAMILY PROGRAMS</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>REBATES</b>	<b>10-11</b>
<b>COMMUNITY SOLAR</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>GLOSSARY AND APPENDIX</b>	<b>13</b>



*In collaboration with the Energy  
Foundation*



## State and Federal Programs

### **Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**

#### Overview

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps low-income families and individuals meet home heating and medically necessary cooling costs. An eligible household that heats with natural gas or electricity may have its benefits directly forwarded to its utility company. Otherwise, in most cases eligible households directly responsible to a fuel supplier for payment of home heating costs receive a two-party check in the name of the applicant and “the fuel supplier”. Households whose heating costs are included in their rent receive a one-party check made out to the eligible applicant.

#### Contact information

[USFHEA-application@dca.nj.gov](mailto:USFHEA-application@dca.nj.gov)..... 1-800-510-3102

#### Eligibility

You must:

- be responsible for home heating or cooling costs, either directly or included in rent
- have gross income at or below 60% of State Median Income

**[CONFIRM YOUR ELIGIBILITY HERE](#)** through the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs anonymous online portal. DCA also provides a fact sheet for 2023 in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

#### How to apply

- 1) Application period for 2023: October 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023.
- 2) Award period: October 1 to September 30
- 3) Download, print, and fill out the DCA’s [application form](#) and send it to a local LIHEAP/USF application agency using [this directory](#).
- 4) When you apply to LIHEAP, your application also applies to the USF (Universal Service Fund), which provides monthly credit to aid residents in paying their utility dues, in addition to a fresh start forgiveness program for those facing gas and electric arrears. [Learn more here](#).

- 5) Note: if you have received LIHEAP/USF last year and have not moved properties, you are eligible to recertify. If you are still eligible, the recertification process will begin automatically. You can fill out a [recertification application](#) and mail it, either to [USFHEA-application@dca.nj.gov](mailto:USFHEA-application@dca.nj.gov) or physically to the agency listed on the recertification letter.

## **New Jersey Weatherization Assistance Program**

### **Overview**

WAP assists specific populations with weatherizing their properties, particularly elderly, disabled, and low-to-moderate income New Jersey residents. Direct assistance goes to both those living in low-income housing and the community organizations which serve them.

### **Contact information**

[Angie.Armanda@dca.nj.gov](mailto:Angie.Armanda@dca.nj.gov) ..... 609-913-4519

### **Eligibility**

[Check your eligibility with this chart.](#)

[A list of HUD Multifamily projects that have utilized WAP](#)

[A list of USDA Buildings Qualified for WAP](#)

### **How to apply**

- 1) Award period: October 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>, July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>
- 2) Download, print, and fill out the DCA's [application form](#).
- 3) Send your completed application to a local LIHEAP/USF application agency using [this directory](#).

## **New Jersey SHARES**

### **Overview**

NJ SHARES provides energy assistance to moderate and fixed-income households experiencing a temporary financial crisis. Eligibility is based on household size and income. Families and individuals which earn too much to qualify for other federal and state assistance such as LIHEAP may be eligible for NJSHARES. NJSHARES grant amounts can be up to \$700 for heating source (natural gas, including cooking gas and electric heat) and up to \$700 for electric service. Grants must result in continuance and/or restoration of service. They are issued directly to the utility company on the customer's behalf.

### **Contact information**

[info@njshares.org](mailto:info@njshares.org) ..... (609) 833-1626 or toll-free (866) 657-4273

### **Eligibility**

**[CONFIRM YOUR ELIGIBILITY HERE](#)** through NJSHARES' anonymous online portal.

[Special utility assistance to Monmouth County tenant households only is offered through NJ SHARES.](#)

### **How to apply**

1. You can apply at any time of the year; grants are awarded year-round subject to funding availability.
2. NJ SHARES provides an [online portal](#) where applications can be filled out digitally or downloaded for physical use.
3. NJ SHARES also provides a similar [online portal](#) for their separate SMART Utility Assistance Program.

## New Jersey PAGE

### Overview

Payment Assistance for Gas and Electric helps low to moderate-income families in New Jersey pay their utility bills. PAGE is administered by the Affordable Housing Alliance, with funding from the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) and is a financial assistance program designed to help households across the state of New Jersey who are experiencing economic hardship and struggling to pay their electric and natural gas bills.

### Contact info

[pageapp@housingapp.org](mailto:pageapp@housingapp.org) ..... 732-982-8710

<https://njpoweron.org/contact-us/>

### Eligibility

You must:

- Be a customer of one of the seven main NJ utility providers or indirectly receive service from them through a third party
- Demonstrate your utilities are in danger of being shut off, actively being shut off, or have already been shut off; in addition to having a minimum utility account balance of \$100
- If your income is low enough to qualify for LIHEAP/USF, you must first apply to those programs before applying to PAGE
- Submit the required documents listed [HERE](#)
- Fall below the gross monthly income limits listed in this chart:

**NEW JERSEY ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS: GROSS MONTHLY INCOME LIMITS\***

Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>LIHEAP</b>	\$3,464	\$4,530	\$5,596	\$6,662	\$7,728	\$8,794	\$8,994	\$9,193
<b>USF</b>	\$4,530	\$6,103	\$7,677	\$9,250	\$10,823	\$12,397	\$13,970	\$15,543
<b>PAGE*</b>	\$5,773	\$7,550	\$9,327	\$11,103	\$12,879	\$14,656	\$14,989	\$15,322

### Steps to apply

- 1) The New Jersey Affordable Housing Alliance provides an [online portal](#) where PAGE applications can be filled out digitally or downloaded for physical use.
- 2) NJ PAGE also provides a more extensive [physical application](#).

## **New Jersey Comfort Partners**

### **Overview**

The New Jersey Comfort Partners Program helps income-eligible customers reduce their utility bills through implementing cost effective measures which save energy and money while improving their home's safety and comfort. Installations are free for the customer and audits usually take around two to three hours.

### **Contact information**

<https://njcleanenergy.com/residential/comfort-partners> ..... **1-800-915-8309**

### **Eligibility**

You must either be at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or participate in at least one of the following safety net programs:

LIHEAP  
TANF

USF  
SSI

PAAD  
SNAP

Section 8  
General Assistance

### **How to apply**

1. Apply before June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, or while funding lasts.
2. Complete NJ Comfort Partners' [online application](#).
3. Print and fill out NJ Comfort Partners' brochure in either [English](#) and [Spanish](#) for physical applications.

## **Utility-Provided Programs**

In addition to larger state and federal programs, most New Jersey utility providers offer a variety of local programs for residents facing difficulties related to weatherization and utility payments. If you are unsure of your utility provider for either gas or electric, please check this [map](#). Contact information for each utility's weatherization and financial assistance programs are listed below:

[South Jersey Natural Gas](#) ..... **1-833-493-0691**  
[New Jersey Natural Gas](#) ..... **877-455-6564**  
[Elizabethtown Gas](#) ..... **1-833-493-0692**  
[PSE&G](#) ..... **1-855-846-2895**  
[Atlantic City Electric](#) ..... **1-866-353-0007**  
[Jersey Central Power and Light](#) ..... **855-449-3090**  
[Orange & Rockland Utility](#) ..... **1-800-430-9505**

## **Quick Home Energy Check Ups**

### **Overview**

Quick Home Energy Check-up Programs are no-cost in-home assessment programs, usually lasting about an hour. During the appointment an Energy Advisor will review your home's energy efficiency, provide a report with recommendations for energy-saving improvements, discuss other energy efficiency programs available to you, and may install energy-saving products, including:

ENERGY STAR® certified LED bulbs	Water heater pipe wraps
Showerhead adapters	Efficient-flow showerheads
Faucet aerators	Smart power strips

### **Eligibility**

Must be residential customer of the relevant utility provider. Check with your provider for details.

### **How to apply**

Check with provider for details:

- [South Jersey Gas Company](#)
- [New Jersey Natural Gas Company](#)
- [Elizabethtown Gas](#)
- [PSE&G](#)
- [Atlantic City Electric](#)
- [Jersey Central Power and Light](#)
- [Orange & Rockland Utility](#)



## Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®

### Overview

HPwES helps homeowners improve the energy efficiency of their homes, including typically up to \$5,000 of dollars in rebates and \$15,000 in interest-free loans for energy-efficient appliances, HVAC upgrades, insulation upgrades, and improvements to health, safety, and comfort.

### Eligibility

Must be residential customer of the relevant utility provider. Check with your provider for details.

### How to apply

Check with provider for details:

- [South Jersey Gas Company](#)
- [New Jersey Natural Gas Company](#)
- [Elizabethtown Gas](#)
- [PSE&G](#)
- [Atlantic City Electric](#)
- [Jersey Central Power and Light](#)
- [Orange & Rockland Utility](#)



## **Income-Qualified Weatherization**

### **Overview**

Income-Qualified Weatherization provides similar services to Comfort Partners for residential customers earning between 250% and 400% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

### **Eligibility**

Check with your provider for details. You must be a residential customer of the relevant utility provider. You must also be between 250% and 400% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, live within a moderate-income Census tract (based on this list), OR participate in one of the following safety net programs:

LIHEAP  
TANF

USF  
SSI

PAAD  
SNAP

Section 8  
General Assistance

### **How to apply**

Check with provider for details:

- [South Jersey Gas Company](#)
- [New Jersey Natural Gas Company](#)
- [Elizabethtown Gas](#)
- [PSE&G](#)
- [Atlantic City Electric](#)
- [Jersey Central Power and Light](#)
- [Orange & Rockland Utility](#)



## **Multi-Family Programs**

### **Overview**

If you are a tenant in a multifamily building, you can approach your property manager and request they look into utility-based weatherization services. Most utilities provide at least two programs:

#### *1) Multifamily Direct Install Program (MDIP):*

Like the single-family Home Energy Check-Ups, MDIP provides free on-site assessment to improve energy efficiency, including but not limited to complimentary installation of faucet aerators, efficient showerheads, and LED lightbulbs.

#### *2) Multifamily Home Performance with ENERGY STAR (MHPwES):*

Like the single-family HPwES, a Building Performance Institute (BPI) certified auditor will conduct a thorough audit of the building, identifying potential upgrades with HVAC, insulation, and water heaters eligible for special financing deals up to \$1,500 per unit. Note that the auditor may sometimes charge a small fee; please check with your auditor beforehand.

### **Eligibility**

Check with provider for details. Buildings must have the following qualifications:

SJG: At least three units, fewer than four stories tall

ETG: At least three units, fewer than four stories tall

PSE&G: At least four units

ACE: At least four units

JCP&L: At least five units

O&R: At least three market-rate units

### **How to Apply**

Check with provider for details:

- [South Jersey Gas](#)
- [Elizabethtown Gas](#)
- [New Jersey Natural Gas](#)
- [PSE&G](#)
- [Atlantic City Electric](#)
- [Jersey Central Power & Light](#)
- [Orange & Rockland Utility](#)

## **Rebates**

### **Overview**

Rebates exist across service providers for residents and property managers alike who wish to remove aging appliances, such as washers, dryers, and fridges. However other forms of rebates exist such as:

- General Appliance Rebates
- Appliance Recycling
- HVAC Rebates
- Lighting Rebates

### **Eligibility**

Check with your provider for details. You must be a residential customer of the relevant utility provider, and other qualifications may also apply depending on the exact program.

### **How to Apply**

#### **South Jersey Gas:**

SJGC offers rebates for appliances with a particular focus on washers and dryers. Additionally, the company offers up to \$1300 for qualifying HVAC and other water heating systems.

- [Program Brochure](#)
- [Program Overview and Application Page](#)

#### **New Jersey Natural Gas**

- NJNG's rebate and financing program offers up to \$1500 in rebates and up to \$15000 in 0% APR financing for the installation of energy efficient equipment.
- Alternatively, NJNG also offers rebates through ENERGY STAR® whole-home assessments up to \$5000, and \$15000 of financing
- [Eligibility tracking tool](#)
- [Customer Certification and Application](#)

#### **Elizabethtown Gas**

- ETG runs a rebate program projected to conclude in June of 2024, or when funding runs out, offering the following:
- Up to \$100 on eligible ENERGY STAR washers
- Up to \$200 on eligible ENERGY STAR dryers

#### **PSE&G**

- [Appliance Rebates](#)
- [Lighting Rebates](#)
- [HVAC Rebates](#)

- [Appliance Recycling](#)

Atlantic City Electric

- [Appliance Rebates](#)
- [Lighting Rebates](#)
- [HVAC Rebates](#)
- [Appliance Recycling](#)

Jersey Central Power & Light

- [Appliance Rebates](#)
- [Lighting Rebates](#)
- [HVAC Rebates](#)
- [Appliance Recycling](#)

Orange & Rockland Utility

- [Appliance Rebates](#)
- [Lighting Rebates](#)
- [HVAC Rebates](#)
- [Appliance Recycling](#)

Housing and  
Community  
Development



**Network of New Jersey**

## **Community Solar**

### **Overview**

Community solar is commonly defined as any solar project or purchasing program, within a geographic area, in which the benefits of a solar project flow to multiple customers such as individuals, businesses, nonprofits, and other groups. In most cases, customers receive partial power from energy generated by solar panels at an off-site array. Customers continue to receive main services through their utility provider, while receiving partial credit on their electric expenses.

Although still being serviced by their main provider, intermediary Community Solar Organizations such as [Solar Landscape](#) and [Dimension Renewable Energy](#) work with the community and all parties involved to integrate their urban solar farms into the local participating properties. Examples of these solar farms can be seen [here](#) and [here](#).

### **Eligibility**

Check with your provider for details as areas of service can have multiple Community Solar Organizations working in specific areas. You must be a residential customer of the relevant electric utility provider, and other qualifications may also apply depending on the exact program. A list of state registered Community Solar organizations can be found [here](#).

### **How to Apply**

The main electric utility providers of New Jersey typically provide avenues to apply for community solar within their area of service. These include:

- [Atlantic City Electric](#)
- [PSE&G](#)
- [Jersey Central Power & Light](#)
- [Orange & Rockland Utility](#)

## **Glossary and Appendix**

**Rebate:** a partial refund

**Subsidize:** A direct or indirect payment, typically from the government or a targeted tax cut.

**Weatherization:** the practice of protecting a building and its interior from the elements, particularly from sunlight, precipitation, and wind, and of modifying a building to reduce energy consumption and optimize energy efficiency.

### **Federal Poverty Guidelines**

*(Based on 2023 Federal Poverty Levels)*

<b>Number of People in Your Home</b>	<b>Annual Minimum Household Income</b>	<b>Monthly Minimum Household Income</b>
1	\$14,580	\$1,215
2	\$19,720	\$1,643
3	\$24,860	\$2,072
4	\$30,000	\$2,500
5	\$35,140	\$2,928
6	\$40,280	\$3,357
7	\$45,420	\$3,785
8	\$50,560	\$4,213

Source: [Department of Health and Human Services](#)

### **Program-specific annual income eligibility chart (check program website for details)**

<b>Number of People in your home</b>	<b>WAP</b>	<b>Comfort Partners</b>	<b>LIHEAP</b>	<b>USF</b>	<b>NJSHARES</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
1	\$27,180	\$36,450	\$41,568	\$54,360	\$58,320	\$69,282
2	\$36,620	\$49,300	\$54,360	\$73,236	\$78,880	\$90,600
3	\$46,060	\$62,150	\$67,152	\$92,124	\$99,440	\$111,918
4	\$55,500	\$75,000	\$79,944	\$111,000	\$120,000	\$133,237
5	\$64,940	\$87,850	\$92,736	\$129,876	\$140,560	\$154,553
6	\$74,380	\$100,700	\$105,528	\$148,764	\$161,120	\$175,872
7	\$83,820	\$113,550	\$107,928	\$167,640	\$181,680	\$179,872
8	\$93,260	\$126,400	\$110,316	\$186,516	\$202,240	\$179,870

Source: Each program's website