

Program Name: Fuel Assistance or LIHEAP

More formally known as LIHEAP: Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program; includes access to Weatherization and other services.

**Agency:** Primarily Community Action Agencies across Massachusetts. Boston, Brookline & Newton, Malden & more are served by Action for Boston Community Development, Inc. (ABCD).

**Description:** Combined state and federally funded program which provides low income households with winter energy service payment assistance through direct payments to utility or vendor. This includes purchased oil, gas, electricity or even firewood – any energy used to provide winter heat.

**Website:** [www.bostonabcd.org/energy](http://www.bostonabcd.org/energy) & <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/learn-about-home-energy-assistance-heap>

**Eligibility:**

Homeowners & renters are eligible (even when heat is included in the rent). Massachusetts has increased income eligibility level to 60% of state median income.

Household income cannot exceed 60% of Massachusetts' estimated State Median Income.

While income is not the only factor in eligibility, please find the maximum FY 2025 income guidelines in the table below:

Household Size	Maximum Income Level
1	\$49,196
2	\$64,333
3	\$79,470
4	\$94,608
5	\$109,745
6	\$124,882
7	\$127,720

8	\$130,559
9	\$133,397
10	\$136,235

\*Not all income counts toward eligibility, so please confirm your actual eligibility with your local agency.

#### **Limitations:**

Operates November 1 – April 30 (but often extended 1 month more depending on the year).

Immigrants: Any income-qualifying household, as long as one member has a social security number, is eligible. Unfortunately, the amount received will only be based on the number who have SS numbers.

#### **Amount:**

Depending on income level, for those in non-subsidized housing: up to \$1,600 in deliverable fuel. For those in subsidized housing: up to \$1,120 for deliverable fuel. (Note: amount varies dramatically by year and state appropriation).

#### **How to Apply:**

The online application opens on October 1 for the upcoming heating season (November 1, 2024 – April 30, 2025). You can submit an application online, in person at the agency in your area, or by mail.

In Boston, Malden, Medford & Everett: call ABCD: 1-617-357-6012

Even if over income, apply! Client can then be directed to other utility payment sources.

**Linked Services?** A Fuel Assistance application opens the door to many energy-related services, including: utility rate reductions, home energy audits with potential no-cost heating system replacement and weatherization services. Utility bill arrearages can be re-negotiated through fuel assistance. Home electrical audits may result in no-cost, refrigerator & other electrical appliance replacements.

**Right to appeal?** Yes, submit a statement requesting appeal within 20 days of receiving the written decision to ABCD fuel program. Technical deadline to submit additional documentation if required is 20 days from letter, but often accepted as late as July.

**Retroactive?** Payments are made directly to the oil or utility company and can be used to payback arrearages and turn services back on.