Energy Assistance
Having difficulty with energy costs this season? Help is available for both income eligible homeowners and renters. Below please find a description and eligibility criteria of programs that may be of assistance to you this Winter Season.

Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP)
The Connecticut Energy Assistance Program is designed to offset winter heating costs of Connecticut’s lower income households. The program assists eligible participants with their primary source of heat such as oil, natural gas, electricity, propane, kerosene, coal, wood and wood pellets. Households eligible for the winter heating program may also be eligible to receive weatherization assistance. This can help in conserving energy and lowering heating bills.

Energy payments are determined by family size and gross income, and by whether a household is classified as “vulnerable”. Vulnerable households have a member who is under age 6, who is age 60+, or who is any age and disabled.

Both homeowners and renters that pay separately for heat may apply. Renters whose heat is included in the rent may also apply as long as more than 30% of gross income is paid toward the rent.

Income Guidelines by Household Size

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Size</th>
<th>Income Guidelines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Under $36,171</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Under $47,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Under $58,430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Under $69,559</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Under $80,688</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Under $91,818</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Under $93,905</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Under $95,991</td>
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</tbody>
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Liquid Asset Test
Assets include checking, savings, CD’s, stocks/shares, bonds, annuities and IRAs. IRA Accounts are considered to be liquid assets if the accounts are in the name of a household member who is at least 59-and-one-half years old.

For homeowners, the first $15,000 in liquid assets, and for other households, the first $12,000 in liquid assets, is disregarded. Any amount over that limit when added to the annual gross income must be below the income guidelines.

Operation Fuel
Operation Fuel provides a one-time grant once a year per household of up to $500.00 to assist families with their energy bills. Operation Fuel assists with all energy types such as oil, electric, natural gas, kerosene, wood, propane, pellets, and other energy sources.

If the grant is being applied to an electric or gas utility bill, Operation Fuel’s grant can be used to prevent a shutoff or restore utility service. Payment history is required for electric and gas utility applicants.

When the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) is accepting applications, Operation Fuel requires that all applicants apply for CEAP prior to applying to Operation Fuel, for primary heat sources. If you are denied a grant from CEAP or have exhausted your CEAP benefit, it may then be determined if you are eligible for a grant benefit.

Operation Fuel serves households whose income does not exceed 75% of the State Median Income.
Income Guidelines by Household Size

1. $43,894.50  
2. $57,400.50  
3. $70,906.50  
4. $84,412.50  
5. $97,918.50  
6. $111,424.50  
7. $113,956.88  
8. $116,489.25

Winter Protection Program
Eversource customers who lack the resources to pay their electric bill may qualify for Shut off Protection during the winter months and can receive protection from service shut-off from November 1 through May 1st. Shut off protection may be completed while applying for energy assistance.

Matching Payment Program
The Matching Payment Program allows you to maintain year-round electric and gas service and possible forgiveness of back balances, if you qualify, and pay an agreed-upon amount each month if you have electric heat. The Matching Payment Program, will match payments once you are approved for and receive energy assistance from Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP). For every dollar you pay toward your bill, a dollar will be credited to your past-due amount.

Eligibility
To be eligible you must be an Eversource customer, heat your home with natural gas or electricity, be approved for assistance through the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program and have funds applied directly to your account. Household income must be at or below 60% of the estimated state median income.

New Start Program
The New Start Program can help to eliminate your outstanding balance. Upon qualifying for the New Start Program Eversource will review your billing history and set a budget based on the average of your monthly bill. When you make your New Start monthly payment a portion of your past due balance will be eliminated reducing the amount you owe.

Eligibility
Residents eligible for the New Start program will have applied for and be eligible to receive CT energy assistance funds or must be able to provide proof of income. They will have a past due balance of $100 or more on an Eversource bill that is at least 60 days overdue. Household income must be at or below 60% of the state median income.

Home Energy Solutions Program (HES-IE)
Provides free in home weatherization to help income eligible residents reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient. Weatherization services include installation of energy efficient light bulbs, caulking drafts, cracks and leaks in windows and doors, and installing water-saving faucet aerators and shower heads. In addition to these services some homes may qualify for insulation and energy-efficient appliances.
Income Guidelines by Household Size

1. 33,880.70
2. 44,305.40
3. 54,730.37
4. 65,155.00

If you would like more information or you are interested in applying for any of the programs listed please contact Sherman Social Services at 860-354-2414 Ext.2