

Energy Assistance Programs



	Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)	Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP)	Nicor Gas Sharing Program	Nicor Gas Energy Aide Program	Bill Assistance Program
Program Period	May 31, 2021 or until funds are exhausted	July 27, 2020 – March 31, 2021 or until funds are exhausted	Ongoing	Ongoing	Began July 7, 2020 – until funds are exhausted
What is it?	The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides qualifying households with monetary relief for energy bills.	Nicor Gas, in partnership with the Department of Commerce and Economic Development, offers the Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) Program, which allows eligible customers to pay a percentage of their monthly income to maintain their utility service.	The Nicor Gas Sharing Program is funded through direct contributions from Nicor Gas employees and customers to assist with account arrearages.	The Nicor Gas Energy Aide Program provides qualifying households with monetary relief for their natural gas bills.	A special bill payment assistance program from Nicor Gas for income-eligible residential customers impacted by COVID-19.
Eligibility Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligibility is based on several factors, including household size and income. To qualify for LIHEAP, a household's combined income for the 30 days prior to application must be at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. For renters, heat and/or electric must be included in the rent, and rent must be greater than 30% of total income in order to be eligible for benefits.* <i>* These figures are based on the Federal Poverty Guidelines published in the US Department of Health and Human Services in the Federal Register.</i> 	Residential customers must be LIHEAP approved and at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Level.	The Sharing Program is available to all residential customers with a gas bill in their name and who are over-income for LIHEAP and PIPP (201%-250% of the Federal Poverty Level).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customers must be at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty Level. Customers who qualify for the special COVID-19 relief must be at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty Level. Customer must show unemployment filing document or letter from employer to receive a COVID-19 Special Assistance Grant. Customers who previously received LIHEAP, PIPP or Sharing Program funds are eligible. Customers who have a non-heat account may also apply. 	For customers who have qualified for LIHEAP or the Nicor Gas Sharing Program.
Customer Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LIHEAP grant is provided as a one, lump-sum grant per program year. Customers that have been disconnected or have an active disconnection notice, can receive Reconnect Assistance in addition to their regular LIHEAP grant. The Reconnect Assistance is up to \$1,000 per year and can be used by both electric and gas utilities. LIHEAP funds do not need to be paid back. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This year-round program allows residential customers to enroll in a set budget plan and a chance to eliminate past due balances. The payment plan requires a minimum monthly payment of 6% of the customer's gross monthly income. The program will pay for the difference between the payment and the monthly bill amount up to \$100 excluding any non gas service related charges. Any utility balance owing at the start of the program will be put into an Arrears Forgiveness Program. As part of the Arrears Forgiveness Program, if the monthly customer payment is received on or before the due date, the customer will receive a credit of 1/12 of their total arrears up to a maximum monthly amount of \$83.33. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Sharing Program grant is provided as a one, lump-sum grant per program year. Sharing Program customers can receive a grant of up to \$400 for customers aged 65 and older and \$350 for customers under the age of 65.* Residential customers over the age of 65 will receive a minimum grant of \$125. The Sharing Program grant does not need to be paid back. Crisis assistance is available for residential customers between 250–300% Federal Poverty Level who have experienced a hardship. Crisis customers can receive a grant of up to \$400 for customers aged 65 and older and \$350 for customers under the age of 65. <i>* If owing balance is less than the grant amount, the customer will receive the amount owing on the account.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligible customers can qualify for a grant of up to \$250 of their past due balance. For balances less than \$250, the total amount of the past due balance will be paid. Customers can also have received LIHEAP, PIPP or Sharing in the same program year. Customers affected by COVID-19 can receive a grant of up to \$300.* The Energy Aide Program is the only program to assist with non-heat accounts. This grant does not need to be paid back. <i>* Customers cannot receive both regular Energy Aide funding and COVID-19 Energy Aide funding.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligible customers will receive up to \$300 automatically on any remaining balance after a LIHEAP or Sharing Program grant is applied. If the owing balance is less than \$300, the customer will receive the total amount owed for their gas usage. PIPP customers who need bill payment assistance on their Customer Payment Responsibility should contact the Nicor Gas PIPP department at (630) 388-2667 or PIPP@southernco.com. No application is needed – the grant is automatically applied to outstanding balances after a LIHEAP or Sharing grant is applied.
How Do I Apply?	Eligibility verification and enrollment is done through local Community Action Agencies. Contact (877) 411-9276 (WARM).	Eligibility verification and enrollment is done through local Community Action Agencies. Contact (877) 411-9276 (WARM).	Contact your local Salvation Army office at (773) 205-3520 or visit nicorgas.com/energyassistance for a list of application locations.	Contact your local Salvation Army office or visit nicorgas.com/energyassistance for a list of application locations.	Visit nicorgas.com/energyassistance for more information.

Energy Assistance Income Guidelines

PROGRAM	FAMILY SIZE							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
LIHEAP Maximum Gross Monthly Income 200%	\$2,127	\$2,873	\$3,620	\$4,367	\$5,113	\$5,860	\$6,607	\$7,353
Sharing Maximum Monthly Income 250%	\$2,658	\$3,592	\$4,525	\$5,458	\$6,392	\$7,325	\$8,258	\$9,192
Crisis and COVID Maximum Monthly Income 300%	\$3,190	\$4,310	\$5,430	\$6,550	\$7,670	\$8,790	\$9,910	\$11,030

Credit Counseling Assistance

If you or someone you know is having trouble paying bills, reach out to ClearPoint, a national, nonprofit credit counseling agency at (800) 251-2227 or (866) 559-8198 for Spanish or visit credability.org. (Usted puede visitar la versión del español Idioma del sitio haciendo clic aquí.) nicorgas.com/energyassistance