



Gas, Electric and Deliverable Fuel Assistance

NJ SHARES Guidelines for Eligibility

Client Help Line: (leave message)

1-(866) 657-4273 option #3

About Us

NJ SHARES provides energy assistance to moderate and fixed-income households experiencing a financial crisis. Eligibility is based on household size and income. Our clients are families and individuals who do not qualify for Federal and State assistance programs due to the household's income. NJ SHARES Grant amounts can be up to \$700 for heating source (gas, oil, propane and electric heat), and can be up to \$300 for electric service. Grants must result in continuance and/or restoration of service.

Eligibility Guidelines

Applicants Must:

- Reside in New Jersey
- Be experiencing a financial crisis, such as a job loss or illness
- Be behind on their energy bill, or need a fuel delivery
- Have income over the limit for Federal programs such as the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and state programs such as the Universal Service Fund (USF). The income calculator can help you determine eligibility. (See page five)
- Have an income level that does not exceed 400% of the Federal Poverty Level
- Have made a good-faith payment of \$100 or more within 90 days of applying for NJ SHARES (for gas and electric customers; deliverable fuel customers are excluded from this rule)

Guidelines for Seniors and the Disabled:

- Applicants 65 years of age or older, with households of one or two members, will be eligible for NJ SHARES if the maximum household income is \$70,000 annually or \$5,833 monthly. Proof of age is required.
- Applicants receiving Federal Social Security Disability (SSD) benefits, with households of one or two members, will be eligible for NJ SHARES if the maximum household income is \$70,000 annually or \$5,833 monthly. Applicants must show proof of Federal SSD benefit.

NJ SHARES Basic Grant Policies and Procedures

Revised November 2009

Income Eligibility

Revised November 2009

2009- 2010 Income Guideline Chart for LIHEAP, USF and NJ SHARES

Households with gross monthly income over the LIHEAP or USF Charts and below the NJS 400% cap may apply for NJ SHARES. LIHEAP and USF eligible households should be referred to 1-800-510-3102 for more information.

Household Size	Gross Monthly Income for LIHEAP 225%FPL	Gross Monthly Income for USF 175% FPL	Gross Monthly Income CAP for NJS 400% FPL
1	\$2,031	\$1,580	\$3,610
2	\$2,732	\$2,125	\$4,857
3	\$3,434	\$2,670	\$6,103
4	\$4,135	\$3,216	\$7,350
5	\$4,836	\$3,762	\$8,630
6	\$5,537	\$4,307	\$9,843
7	\$6,239	\$4,852	\$11,090
8	\$6,940	\$5,398	\$12,337
9	\$7,641	\$5,943	\$13,583
10	\$8,342	\$6,489	\$14,830

- NJ SHARES helps households that do not qualify for LIHEAP or Universal Service Fund (USF) programs. Use the chart, left, to determine if household income levels *exceed* the guidelines for the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and/or USF.
- A household that is coded for USF or has received a LIHEAP grant within the current heating season is not eligible for NJ SHARES. The applicant cannot currently be receiving cash assistance from the New Jersey Division of Family Development. More specifically, this means TANF and GA (General Assistance).
- A household may receive a grant once between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31 of a given year.
- Households that heat with oil, propane or natural gas can apply for one heating source grant up to \$700 and an electric service grant up to \$300.
- Households that heat with electric can apply for a heating grant up to \$700.

Residence and Billing

- Energy assistance applicants must be New Jersey residents and have a temporary, one-time need for assistance.
- The applicant must reside at the address listed on his or her application.
- The electric and natural gas bill must be in the applicant's name.

- **Exceptions:**

- The bill is in the spouse's name and the spouse still resides in the home or the spouse is deceased.
- The applicant is elderly or disabled and a volunteer, family member, or social worker that has a letter of authorization, is applying on his/her behalf.

- **Required Documentation for Exceptions:**

- In cases where applicants are not the customer of record – a marriage certificate is needed for clients who are applying as married with different last names and a letter or power of attorney document is required for those applying for an elderly or disabled client.