

LIHEAP Is Open

By Senator Lisa Boscola
2025-26 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program Season will be Open December 3, 2025 through April 10, 2026

Warm HouseThe Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps families living on low incomes pay their heating bills in the form of a cash grant. Households in immediate danger of being without heat can also qualify for crisis grants. The cash grant is a one-time payment sent directly to the utility company/fuel provider to be credited on your bill. These grants range from \$200 to \$1,000 based on household size, income, and fuel type. Remember: This is a grant and does not have to be repaid.

How to apply
There are two ways to apply for LIHEAP:
Online: Apply for benefits online using? COMPASS, the online tool for Pennsylvanians to apply for and manage health and human service programs.

On paper: You can download a paper application, print it, fill it out, and return it to your?local county assistance office.

English LIHEAP Application - http://enews.senatorboscola.com/mail/util.cfm?mailaction=clickthru&gpiv=2100171084.3270.15&gen=1&mailing_linkid=23767

Spanish LIHEAP Application - http://enews.senatorboscola.com/mail/util.cfm?mailaction=clickthru&gpiv=2100171084.3270.15&gen=1&mailing_linkid=23768

Eligibility

You must meet income guidelines
You don't have to be on public assistance
You don't need to have an unpaid heating bills
You can rent or own your home
LIHEAP Documents

LIHEAP Policy Handbook
2025 LIHEAP Brochures
English PDF
Spanish PDF
Additional Information

LIHEAP Benefit Table
OIM Recent Operations Memoranda and Policy Clarifications
Income Requirements for 2025-2026

Household Size	Income Limit
1	\$23,475
2	\$31,725
3	\$39,975
4	\$48,225
5	\$56,475
6	\$64,725
7	\$72,975
8	\$81,225
9	\$89,475
10	\$97,725

For every additional person, add \$8,250.



Warning: Gift Card Scams

By Senator Lisa Boscola

Gift Card ScamGift cards mainly work like cash - once the money is gone, it's gone. Be sure to protect yourself!

Giving gift cards as gifts is easy but unfortunately, scammers like them, too. Think about the last time you bought a gift card for a loved one or friend. Now imagine learning the balance was gone before the card was even used. This is happening across Pennsylvania, where "card draining" scams occur when thieves record activation codes from cards on display and steal the funds as soon as it gets loaded. Federal investigators have tied many of these schemes to China-based criminal

networks, including a recent Western Pennsylvania case involving drained Apple gift cards sold at Walmart stores. These incidents show how sophisticated and widespread card draining has become and why Pennsylvania needs clearer, targeted tools to address it.

Senator Lisa BoscolaCurrently, prosecutors use general theft and access-device statutes to address these incidents, and those tools work in some circumstances. However, they do not directly cover pre-activation tampering or the recording of activation codes from cards displayed for sale. Pennsylvania also has no statewide requirement for simple point-of-sale warnings or basic employee training, even though other states have adopted these steps to help prevent scams at checkout.

To strengthen prevention and provide clearer standards, I will be introducing a two-bill package informed by laws enacted in more than 15 states and introduced in 10 others to combat gift card fraud. One bill creates a targeted offense for tampering with gift cards or harvesting activation data before purchase. The second bill requires retailers to post standardized fraud warnings and provide basic employee training wherever third-party gift cards are sold.

Taken together, these proposals will better protect consumers before they are defrauded and will set clear expectations for preventing and prosecuting these schemes.

PROTECTING YOURSELF FROM GIFT CARD SCAMS

- 1 MIND WHERE YOU BUY** | When buying cards, purchase them directly from the business that issued them. If you buy online, don't purchase it from a company that says 'we specialize in digital gift cards.'
- 2 DOUBLE-CHECK THE VALUE** | It's always a good idea to check that the funds are there before leaving the store.
- 3 LOOK FOR TAMPERING** | Consumers are advised to note whether the gift card package has been tampered with, as well as if the personal identification number cover has pieces missing, is fully missing, is not flat/smooth or contains wrinkles.
- 4 KEEP THE RECEIPT** | Hang on to the receipt as documentation. It might help if something goes wrong.
- 5 PROTECT YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION** | Be cautious not to share your bank account numbers or Social Security numbers with anyone in exchange for a gift card.



IF YOUR HOUSEHOLD IS EXPERIENCING A HEATING CRISIS:

In addition to LIHEAP cash grants, crisis benefits are available to those who are experiencing a heating emergency. LIHEAP crisis benefits provide assistance for those experiencing:

- Broken heating equipment or leaking lines that must be fixed or replaced, Lack of fuel, the shut off of the main heating source or secondary heating source (a source that is used to operate the main heating source or used if the main heating source is not working), the danger of being without fuel (less than a 15-day supply), or the danger of having utility service terminated

Eligible applicants will receive benefits within 10 business days of applying, or sooner for those who are experiencing a time-sensitive, life-threatening crisis.