

A (LI)heap Of Usual Information To Stay Warm This Winter

By Rep. Tarah Probst

As we prepare for winter, it is very important that you are able to stay warm in your home.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program provides grants to help eligible Pennsylvania households pay their heating bills, and applications for the 2026–27 LIHEAP season are scheduled to open on November 2.

Both homeowners and renters may qualify. Eligibility is based on household size and total household income, as shown in the graph above.

For more information and to apply, contact my office at (570) 420-2850 or visit here https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources/liheap.

Income Requirements

Your eligibility for LIHEAP is determined by the total annual income and size of your household. The income limit includes cumulative yearly earnings of all members of your household. To determine your household income, you should include the income of:

- All related or unrelated household members
- Renters who are related to you by blood, marriage, or adoption to a household member

Household Size	Maximum Annual Income
1	$23,940
2	$32,460
3	$40,980
4	$49,500
5	$58,020
6	$66,540
7	$75,060
8	$83,580
9	$92,100
10	$100,620
For every additional person, add $8,520	

Effective: *February 1, 2026.*

Change Your Clocks, Change Your Batteries

By Rep. Tarah Probst

The Pennsylvania Office of the State Fire Commissioner is highlighting the importance of fresh batteries in smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors as Pennsylvanians' attention turns toward fall and this weekend's "fall back" time change.

According to data from the National Fire Protection Association, from the moment an alarm sounds, occupants may have as little as two minutes to safely exit the building.

Dead or missing batteries are the most common cause of smoke alarm or carbon monoxide detector malfunctions. When functioning, smoke alarms can decrease the risk of dying in a home fire by as much as half.



These safety tips can help you equip your home properly with smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors:

Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home including the basement.

Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.

It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.

Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.

A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.

People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.

Newer models of smoke alarms marketed as having long-lasting batteries may not need to have their batteries replaced; however, these models should still be tested. Many homeowners still use older models that use standard batteries that must be replaced regularly.

The American Red Cross' Sound the Alarm Program operates nationwide and hooks people up with a local chapter that will visit their home and provide fire safety education and install free smoke alarms. For more information, go here https://www.redcross.org/sound-the-alarm.html.



