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Heating Assistance Still Available

Home Energy Plus program helps 220,000 households this winter

State officials announce that funding is still available through May 15 to help low-income households pay for home heating costs through the Home Energy Plus program. The average heating assistance benefit is \$338, and the average electric benefit is \$174.

Eligibility is based upon household income, household size and home heating/electric costs to determine the amount of benefits an individual or family can receive. The program pays benefits directly to fuel suppliers to help offset the cost of home heating/electric costs.

Residents can apply for assistance through county social service offices, tribal governments and private non-profit agencies. Call toll-free 1-866-HEATWIS (432-8947) or visit the Home Energy Plus Where to Apply webpage for the local agency in your area. Residents may be eligible if the gross household income is 60% of the state median income level or less.

INCOME GUIDELINES	
2012-2013 HEATING SEASON	
Household Size	Annual Income
1	24,282
2	31,754
3	39,225
4	46,697
5	54,169
6	61,640
7	63,041
8	64,442

The Home Energy Plus Program receives federal funding for heating assistance. The State of Wisconsin has received \$95.3 million for this heating season.

Last year, the average heating benefit was \$348 for 221,785 households.

In addition to heating and electric assistance, the <u>Home Energy Plus Program</u> offers emergency fuel assistance, counseling for energy conservation and energy budgets, proactive co-payment plans, and emergency furnace repair and replacement.