Fuel Assistance Program

**What is it?**
It’s a Federally funded program designed to help pay winter heating bills.

**Who is eligible?**
Any family or individual who pays for heat and is within the income guidelines. It doesn’t matter if you own or rent. In some instances, renters with their heating cost included in the rent may be eligible for assistance.

**How does it work?**
A household must file a new application each year and submit identification, proof of income and heating information. The application will be certified for a certain benefit amount, or determined to be ineligible. (If a household is denied assistance that household has the right to appeal, first through the agency and then through the state office.) Once a household is certified as eligible, a notice will be sent to the applicant and to the heating vendor. Bills will be submitted to Fuel Assistance by the vendor and the Fuel Assistance office will pay the vendor directly.

**How do I apply?**
New Applicants should call the Fuel Assistance office starting in mid-October. Applications will be taken from mid-October through April 30, at 51 Inman Street in Cambridge. A receptionist will schedule an appointment for you and ask you questions about your housing and income situation. Based on the information you provide, you will be told what to bring with you when you come in.

**Re-Certification Applicants** who receive their application in the mail should follow the enclosed directions, sign the application and mail it back to us with the necessary income documentation. If you don’t send the application back you will not be eligible for Fuel Assistance.

**How long does it run?**
The program runs from November 1 through April 30. Payments will be made for heating bills incurred during that time, but only up to the benefit amount.

**What if I can’t come to the office?**
Please call the office and we can make special accommodations.

**NO HEAT EMERGENCIES**
If you have no heat, a 72 hour shut-off notice on your utility, or less than 1/8 of a tank of oil, call the Fuel Assistance office and you will be given an appointment for that same day. If you’re eligible we will arrange an oil delivery or make a commitment to your utility company. If you’ve already applied and haven’t been approved yet, call the office and we will process your application that day. You must have a complete, eligible application on file in order to obtain emergency services.

**OTHER PROGRAMS.** You may also be eligible for discounts on your gas & electric bills. Utility discounts range from 20-35%. Some utilities require that the name on the bill is the same as head of household on your fuel assistance application.

**WEATHERIZATION** can install attic and/or wall insulation and perform heat sealing measures to prevent heat loss from your home.

**THE HEARTWAP PROGRAM** can repair or replace your primary heating system.

**Call for an Appointment**
617.349.6252

**PROGRAM OPENS**
November 1
You could be eligible for heating assistance and weatherization as well as discounts on utilities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Size</th>
<th>Maximum Income</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$37,360</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$48,855</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>$96,992</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>$99,147</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Benefit levels depend on household size, household income and the cost of energy consumed over the last 12 months.

Call today for an appointment
617.349.6252
Get help staying warm today!

City of Cambridge
Department of Human Service Programs
51 Inman St., Cambridge, MA 02139

Serving
Cambridge & Somerville