

HEAP

HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

HEAP FUNDING

- 100% federally funded
- Annual State block grant
- Administered and Regulated by NYS

HEAP COMPONENTS

- Regular Benefit
 - one benefit for primary heating source
- Emergency Benefits
 - one benefit for primary heating source
 - one benefit for a utility disconnect

HEAP Requirements

- Applicant must pay directly for heat
or
- The payment for heat is included in the applicant's rent
and
- An applicant must be a U.S. citizen or qualified alien.

Heap Eligibility

- Based on the Household's
 - INCOME
 - LIVING SITUATION

Income Eligibility Guidelines

<u>HH Size</u>	<u>Tier I</u>	<u>Tier II</u>
1	0 - 1,245	1,246 - 2,175
2	0 - 1,680	1,681 - 2,844
3	0 - 2,116	2,117 - 3,513
4	0 - 2,551	2,552 - 4,182
5	0 - 2,987	2,988 - 4,852
6	0 - 3,422	3,423 - 5,521
7	0 - 3,858	3,859 - 5,646
8	0 - 4,293	4,294 - 5,772

**HEAP BENEFIT
CALCULATION**

- Household size and monthly income limit

**METHODS FOR RECEIVING
REGULAR HEAP BENEFITS**

Automatic payment for all TA and SNAP recipients

Everyone else has to apply for the program

The Heap Application

- Any household who did not receive a heap benefit “automatically” will have to complete the 2013/2014 Heap Application.
- Heap Applications are available on line @
 - <http://www.otda.state.ny.us/programs/applications/>
 - <https://www.mybenefits.ny.gov/>

Suffolk County Office of the Aging

- OFA is a certifier for Suffolk County residents who are:
 - Over the age of 60
 - Disabled

Located at:

H. Lee Dennison Building 3rd Floor, Hauppauge (631) 853-8200
Riverhead County Center, Riverhead (631) 852-1420
To inquire about pending applications, (631) 853-8326
Email @ aging_office@co.suffolk.ny.us

Ronkonkoma Moved

- The fuel site located at:
 - **3455 Veterans Memorial Hwy,
Ronkonkoma NY 11779**
 - Has moved effective October 1, 2012 to
 - **200 Wireless Blvd, Hauppauge, NY
11788**

Fuel Sites Locations and Phone Numbers

- Riverhead Energy Unit, 852-3631
 - 893 East Main St, Riverhead NY 11901
- Southwest Energy Unit, 854-6684, 854-1865
 - 2 South 2nd St, Deer Park, NY 11729
- Smithtown Energy Unit, 854-9308
 - 200 Wireless Blvd, Hauppauge, NY 11788

Changes for the New Season

- The Dates:
 - Heap opens **November 18, 2013** and is projected to close **March 17, 2014**
- The Benefit amounts are similar to 2012/2013
- No announcement of the 2nd benefit (Emergency Benefit).

The New Benefit Amounts

■ Regular HEAP benefit levels -Nov 18, 2013:

Oil, Kerosene, Propane	\$600
Wood/Coal or other deliverable	\$500
Natural gas/Electric heat	\$400

Renters Benefit

Tier I	\$25
Tier II	\$20

The New Benefit Amounts

Emergency HEAP benefit levels-January 2, 2014:

Oil, Kerosene, Propane	\$600
Wood/Coal/other	\$500
Heat related electric	\$160
Natural gas heat only	\$200
Natural gas and electric	\$560

HEAP EMERGENCY BENEFIT

(the 2nd benefit)

- An “Emergency” is defined as:
 - Less than 7-day supply of fuel
 - Utility disconnect or scheduled disconnect
 - Inoperable heating system for homeowners

REQUIREMENTS FOR the EMERGENCY BENEFIT

- The household must have already received a regular Heap benefit and
- The household must be in an “emergency situation”

Emergency HEAP Requirements

- Be customer of record
- The original application is used to make the eligibility determination
- Have no available liquid resources
 - Exception: \$3,000 of resources exempt for heating system repair/replacement

**METHODS FOR RECEIVING
EMERGENCY BENEFITS**

- The household has to contact their fuel site.
 - A brief telephone interview to verify application to current household situation
- Active TA & SNAP recipients
 - Call (631) 853-8820

Heating Equipment Repair and Replacement

- Heating Equipment Repair and Replacement benefits have been suspended and are not available through HEAP for the 2013-2014 season. Any consumer in need of Emergency Heating Equipment Repair or Replacement must file an Emergency Temporary Assistance application in person at one the DSS service centers.

**MEETING NEEDS WITH
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE**

When HEAP benefits are not available to meet the energy emergency, applicants may apply for Temporary Assistance.

The TA program is a different program with stricter criteria.

- All available resources must be used to meet the emergency

MEETING NEEDS WITH TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE

■ TA categories:

- Emergency Safety Net households (ESN)
- Emergency Assistance to Families (EAF)
- Emergency Assistance to Adults (EAA) SSI recipients

TIPS FOR THE ADVOCATE

- Understand there are no guarantees prior to Program opening.
- Please do not wait to apply.
- A phone interview is encouraged whenever possible to prevent over crowding at the sites.
