

Dear Friend,

This past August, in response to the steep increase in heating costs, I helped to write legislation to offer one-time help of up to \$500 to eligible households having trouble paying their heating bills this winter. This legislation directed Operation Fuel, a private, nonprofit organization that offers emergency energy assistance to many lower-income working families and senior citizens, to make energy grants to eligible households that, due to a financial crisis, cannot make timely payment on a home heating bill or expense.



Now that the cold weather is upon us and Operation Fuel has detailed its grant procedure, I would like to share with you the most up-to-date information on our various home energy assistance programs. Depending on your income and available assets, you may be eligible for help in heating your home this winter.

As always, I am proud and privileged to serve as your State Representative. Please call me at **234-2240** anytime, or visit me at **www.stevefontana.com**, if you need help with any state issue. In the meantime, I wish you and your family a safe, warm, and happy holiday season, and a wonderful start to 2009.

Best wishes,

  
Steve Fontana

HOME HEATING ASSISTANCE



**How to Contact Me**  
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STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
STEVE  
**FONTANA**



REPRESENTING NORTH HAVEN

# ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The following programs are available to help Connecticut residents pay their heating bills and conserve energy.

**The Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP)** helps lower-income households pay for primary heating bills. If you rent and your household's primary heating costs are included in your rent, you may also apply for assistance. CEAP also helps households with elderly (aged 60 and over) or disabled members with incomes of up to 200% of the federal poverty income guidelines to pay their primary heating bills.

**The Contingency Heating Assistance Program (CHAP)** assists households with incomes of up to 60% of the State Median Income Guidelines that are not eligible for CEAP.

**Weatherization Assistance Program** - You may be eligible for free assistance to weatherize your home or apartment. (A CEAP or CHAP application also serves as an application for the Weatherization Assistance Program.) Weatherization measures may include insulating your attic and/or walls and/or storm windows, and servicing your heating system. Call 1-800-842-1132 for additional information.

Call the Community Action Agency of New Haven at 387-7700, North Haven's Community Services at 239-2566, or Infoline at 2-1-1 to check on income guidelines for CEAP or CHAP and where to apply. NOTE: you must report and verify your liquid assets as an eligibility requirement.



To qualify for an Operation Fuel grant, eligible households must:

1. Meet an income test. Eligible households must have a total annual income below 100% of the state's median income (SMI). The SMI for a household of one person is \$48,787; for a household of two people it is \$63,789.
2. Meet a liquid assets test. Eligible households may have total liquid assets (checking accounts, savings accounts, stocks, bonds, CDs, and IRAs) of up to \$10,000. If a household has liquid assets of more than \$10,000, it still may qualify, but the amount of its liquid assets above \$10,000 will count toward its total annual income.
3. Exhaust all existing governmental energy assistance. For information about applying for Connecticut's existing energy assistance programs, please call North Haven's Community Services office at 239-2566, or Infoline at 2-1-1.

To apply for an Operation Fuel grant, please call Sharon Willard, of the Greater New Haven County Fuel Bank (part of the Community Action Agency of New Haven), at 387-7700, extension 220. If you are a senior citizen with at least one person in your household 65 years of age or older, please be sure to ask specifically to apply for Operation Fuel's Elderly Home Heating Assistance Program (EHHAP).



## OTHER ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

**Private Fuel Bank** – North Haven may provide a limited amount of energy assistance to town residents who do not qualify for state assistance. For more information, contact Community Services at 239-5321.

**Utility Arrearage Forgiveness Program** - United Illuminating (UI) and Southern Connecticut Gas (SCG) may offer assistance to help customers pay a portion of their utility back bills. (There are eligibility requirements to qualify.) For more information, contact UI at 800-442-5004 or SCG at 800-659-8299.

**Winter Protection Program (Utility Shutoff Moratorium)** – UI and SCG participate in the Winter Protection Program, which codes participants as “hardship cases” and protects them from utility service shutoff between November 1st and May 1st of each year (provided that they apply for such status). For more information, contact UI at 800-722-5584 or SCG at 800-659-8299.

**Utility Conservation Program** – UI and SCG offer low-cost energy conservation materials and home energy audit services to most households. Contact UI at 499-2648 or SCG's vendor (called Home Energy Solutions) at 888-403-3500 for more information.

**Energy Conservation Loan Program** - You may be eligible for a low-interest loan to pay for insulation, energy conservation measures, and efficient heating improvements for your home. For more information, contact the Connecticut Housing Investment Fund (CHIF) at 1-800-992-3665.