

Dear Friends,

Now that the cold weather is upon us, I would like to share with you some information on various home energy assistance programs. Depending on income, available assets, and, if renting, the cost of that rent, you or someone you know may be eligible for state help in heating your home this winter.



This brochure briefly describes some of the available programs, but if you need additional assistance, please call Infoline at 2-1-1 for more information.

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 and happy holiday season, and a wonderful start to 2008.

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 to pay their heating bills and to 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 239-5321, 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.

WAYS TO SAVE MONEY

1. Have your heating system cleaned and tuned yearly.
2. Set your hot water heater to 120°.
3. Do not block heating or cooling vents.
4. Take shorter showers or baths.
5. Wash only full loads of clothes and dishes in cold water.
6. Turn down the thermostat when you are asleep or gone during the day.
7. Cover your pots when cooking to reduce the amount of heat needed and cooking time.
8. Turn off the oven five minutes before you have finished baking to take advantage of built-up heat.
9. Clean and dust the back and bottom of your refrigerator once a year.
10. Seal off fireplaces when not in use.
11. Replace all incandescent lightbulbs with compact fluorescent lightbulbs.



OTHER ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Private Fuel Bank – North Haven may provide a limited amount of winter energy assistance to local residents who do not qualify for CEAP or CHAP. For more information, call 239-5321 and ask for Community Services.

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. Utility companies code the bills of people who participate in this program to prevent their service from being shut off between November 1st and May 1st of each year. For more information, contact UI at 800-722-5584 or SCG at 800-659-8299.

Utility Conservation Program – UI and SCG offer free or low-cost energy conservation materials and 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.

