



Hooksett Village Water Precinct

7 Riverside Street
Hooksett, NH 03106

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www.hooksettvillagewater.org

LIHWAP ANNOUNCEMENT

Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program

The NH Department of Energy has begun a new statewide program for households whose income is below 60% of the state median income (SMI) (*see below*). The Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) provides a **one-time benefit** to eligible low-income households who are past-due, have a disconnection notice or have been disconnected from a water/wastewater service or utility.

Payments on behalf of eligible applicants will be made directly to the Precinct through the Community Action Program of Belknap-Merrimack Counties (CAPBM). CAPBM is responsible for administering the program at the local level. These one-time payments will be available until **September 30, 2023** or until the funds run out. It is not expected that funds will run out before the program ends.

This new emergency program is specifically designed to assist households with paying for drinking water and/or wastewater services to remove any current arrearage or disconnection situation. There is **no limit** to the dollar amount of assistance available per household for this one-time benefit to address:

1. Restoration of services to households that have had drinking water and/or wastewater services disconnected due to arrearages;
2. Prevention of disconnection for households at risk of disconnection due to arrearages; and
3. Reducing rates charged to low-income households where possible to help ensure affordable household water services.

For the purposes of LIHWAP, an arrearage refers to an unpaid past due bill for household drinking water and/or wastewater utility services while rate reduction refers to payment of a currently due bill charged to a household for drinking water or wastewater services. Both payments may include standard charges and fees included in the household water bill, including standard reconnection fees. Repairs however are not payable expenses. Any final invoice submissions must be received by CAPBM by Thursday, October 5, 2023.

Residents who seek assistance may visit the CAPBM fuel assistance website at <https://www.capbm.org/fuel-assistance-program-fap> or the CAPBM office at:

2 Industrial Park Dr., Bldg. 1, P.O. Box 2016, Concord, NH 03301

Phone: [603-223-0043](tel:603-223-0043) Email: FuelAssistance@capbm.org

Application Guidelines: Certification in the NH Fuel Assistance Program through CAPBM is required in order to qualify for water bill assistance. Certification requirements are described in detail at <https://www.capbm.org/fuel-assistance-program-fap>. Once certified, there is also a specific application to apply for involvement with LIHWAP.

Residents who are in arrearage/disconnect circumstances, should apply for the NH Fuel Assistance Program as soon as possible. It will enable you to receive funding towards your winter heating bills in addition to your current water/wastewater accounts.

Income Eligibility Guidelines: The income eligibility threshold for the Fuel Assistance Program is currently established at 60% of the NH SMI. All households with incomes up to 60% of the NH SMI are encouraged to apply through CAPBM.

Income Eligibility Based on Family Size and Gross Annual Income:

- For a family of 1, a maximum gross annual income of \$38,969
- For a family of 2, a maximum gross annual income of \$50,959
- For a family of 3, a maximum gross annual income of \$62,950
- For a family of 4, a maximum gross annual income of \$74,941
- For a family of 5, a maximum gross annual income of \$86,931
- For a family of 6, a maximum gross annual income of \$98,922
- For a family of 7, a maximum gross annual income of \$101,170
- For a family of 8, a maximum gross annual income of \$103,418

For More Information:

CAPBM, <https://www.capbm.org>, 603-223-0043, FuelAssistance@capbm.org

HVWP, <https://www.hooksettillagewater.org>, 603-485-3392, inbox@hooksettillagewater.org

NH Dept. of Energy, <https://www.energy.nh.gov/consumers/help-energy-and-utility-bills>, 603-271-8317, Eileen.P.Smiglowski@energy.nh.gov