



# Gas and electricity discounts for disabled

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All electric and most gas companies have low-income discount programs. You automatically qualify for discounts if you receive food stamp benefits, MassHealth, SSI, fuel assistance, veterans' services, if your child is in Head Start or the school lunch program. These discounts can save you 20 -35% on each bill.

Get help with energy bills. The LIHEAP and WAP programs help pay for heating, cooling, and home weatherization. Learn if you are eligible and how to apply. And get help if your utilities were disconnected.

Both programs--Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security disability insurance (SSDI)--will pay you monthly cash benefits if you're disabled and you meet certain other eligibility criteria.

Our detailed guide explains about Social Security Disability Housing Assistance. Learn more by visiting Disability Help and exploring our comprehensive resources.

Call the Cold Relief Heatline to find out where to apply for Fuel Assistance (LIHEAP), Weatherization (WAP), and the Heating System Repair and Replacement Program (HEARTWAP). The Fuel Assistance Application also serves as an application for the Weatherization program and the Heating System Repair and Replacement Program (HEARTWAP).

Fuel Assistance, also known as the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), is a government program to help low-income families and individuals pay their heating bills during the winter. The fuel assistance program is administered through local community action programs (CAPs).

Electric and gas companies also offer free energy conservation surveys; which may pay for insulation, water-saving devices, low-energy lights and provide useful tips on how to save money on utility bills. For information on either program, contact your utility company's customer service department or the Consumer Division of the Department of Public Utilities at 1-877-886-5066. Additionally, water and sewer companies often offer discounts to people with disabilities, regardless of income or assets. Call your water company to inquire.

The Fund is operated by your local Salvation Army Office, is for those with limited income that are not eligible for fuel assistance. The fund most often helps families or individuals facing an unexpected short-term financial crisis. Your immigration status does not matter for this program. You may apply by directly contacting your local Salvation Army Service Center. If you do not see a Service Center in your local area, please call 339-502-5900. Phone: 800-334-3047 (serving area codes 508, 617, 781 and 978) or 800-262-1320 (serving area code 413).

Help is available for Verizon Customers in Massachusetts. Directory assistance exemptions and operator



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assistance exemptions are available if you are blind or low-vision, deaf-blind, mobility impaired, or cognitively impaired. Eligible persons with disabilities earning under \$50,000 a year may be entitled to receive a phone or adaptive communication equipment from Verizon. To get more information on any of these programs, call the Verizon Center for Customers with Disabilities. Phone: 800-974-6006 (v/TTY).

A Massachusetts state agency that can help consumers with disabilities with disputes or issues that they have with their landline telephone and or cable service. Phone: 617-305-3531 Toll-Free: 800-392-6066

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