

# ENERGY ASSISTANCE - LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIEAP) & ENERGY SHARE



Individuals must have adequate access to residential energy in order to heat their home and power appliances including life-saving equipment for the disabled and elderly. Last year 26,000 households across Montana could not afford to pay their energy bills.

**Who is eligible?** Both homeowners and renters may apply for LIEAP and Energy Share. The amount of assistance provided is based on income eligibility, housing type, heat type, number of bedrooms, and the number of people residing in the household. Households living on fixed incomes such as Social Security Disability Insurance, Supplemental Security Income, General Assistance, Veterans Assistance, or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families may apply as well as the low-income working household.

**What is the difference between LIEAP and Energy Share?** LIEAP pays a portion of the low-income eligible applicant's heating bill directly to the utility provider during the heating season of October 1st through April 30th of each year. Exceptions are if your heat is included in your rent or the account is not in household member's name, you must provide receipts for reimbursement of utility expenses. LIEAP is not a loan program.

Energy Share is a year-round, one-time emergency assistance loan program for eligible low-income individuals facing an energy emergency (furnace repair/replacement, utility disconnect, etc.). Energy Share is available only when all other resources have been exhausted and loans must be repaid.

**When should I apply for LIEAP?** Applications are available October 1- April 30.

**How do I get an application?** Applications are available to download and print at [www.hrdc7.org](http://www.hrdc7.org). If you do not have the ability to print an application, please call 406-247-4778 and request an application package be mailed. Please remember to clearly provide your contact information including full name, mailing address and phone number.

**How long does the process take once you receive my application?** Once your application is received by HRDC LIEAP staff, it will take an average of approximately 45 days to review, request additional information (as applicable) and approve or decline the application. During peak winter seasons, HRDC's LIEAP office experiences an increase in the amount of requests and therefore the review process can take longer.



**Once I'm approved, how soon will my assistance become active?** Payments are retroactive back to October 1st. The State of Montana sends payments out every Wednesday. Please give your utility vendor a few days to enter the payments into their system.

**How is Energy Share part of HRDC?** Energy Share of Montana is a private non-profit working in partnership with the ten HRDC's across the state. The HRDC's then distribute Energy Share applications and assist in the review process.

## For more information

Web: [www.hrdc7.org](http://www.hrdc7.org)

Phone: 406-247-4778 or 800-433-1411

Email: [info@hrdc7.org](mailto:info@hrdc7.org)

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District 7 HRDC is a private nonprofit Community Action Agency dedicated to the promotion of self-sufficiency and alleviation of poverty. HRDC offers many resources for you, for your family, and for your home, all in the name of helping people move forward. To learn more, visit [www.hrdc7.org](http://www.hrdc7.org) or call 406-247-4732 for more information about how we can help you.

**District 7 Human Resources Development Council**  
Big Horn, Carbon, Stillwater, Sweet Grass and Yellowstone Counties of Montana

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