

Dear Neighbor,

Conserving energy is always a high priority, today more so than ever. It is important that we realize that each of us can take action now to help control energy and heating costs. Enclosed is a list of various programs that may be able to provide you assistance with either paying your utility bill or having work done on your home to make it more energy efficient.

It is important to remember that you will not know if you qualify for these programs unless you apply. Please do not pass up on these opportunities that may make your winter more comfortable and less expensive.

I hope you find this information useful. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you ever be in need of assistance.

Best regards,

George D. Maziarz
George D. Maziarz
Senator, 62nd District

HELPFUL NUMBERS

Orleans County Department of Social Services: (585) 589-7000

Orleans County Office for the Aging: (585) 589-3191

National Grid: 1-800-642-4272

NYSEG: 1-800-572-1111

Community Action of Orleans and Genesee County: (585) 589-5605

Rochester Gas & Electric 1-877-266-3492

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority 1-866-697-3732

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Various programs are available that provide direct financial assistance to help pay home heating bills. Some of these programs are government run, such as the Home Energy Assistance Program, while others are a joint effort between local charities and the utilities companies. Below is a list of the various programs that may be able to give you and your family help this winter.

WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM THROUGH THE NYS DIVISION OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY RENEWAL

Phone: Community Action of Orleans and Genesee (585) 589-5605

Website: www.dhcr.state.ny.us/Programs/WeatherizationAssistance
OR www.caoginc.org

GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

Phone: Orleans County DSS (585) 589-7000

Website: www.orleansny.com

Home Energy Assistance Program - HEAP

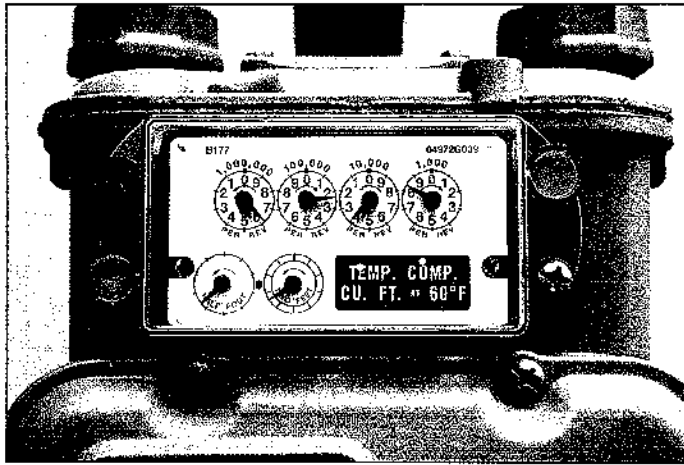
The HEAP program assists lower-income individuals and families with home heating costs in the winter. The program provides grants for heating bills ranging from \$40 to \$600 depending on a household's income, family size, living arrangement, heating expenses, type of heat, and presence of children under the age of six, adults over the age of 60, and disabled individuals. Both renters and homeowners can be eligible for assistance. HEAP also offers an emergency benefit for households in a heat or heat-related energy emergency. Additionally, the program offers

a furnace repair and/or replacement benefit for households with inoperable heating equipment. Applications and eligibility information can be obtained at your local Department of Social Services, by calling the HEAP hotline at 1-800-342-3009 or by visiting www.otda.ny.gov/programs/heap. Priority is given to those households that have a child or children under the age of eight, adults over 60, or disabled individuals living in the house; spend a large portion of their income on energy bills; have the lowest income; or run out of heating fuel.



UTILITY PROGRAMS

The following programs are supported through the various utilities that service our region. Beyond these specific programs, it may also be worth contacting the utility to discuss various payment options that may make paying energy bills more feasible. One such option is the budget plan which averages out your payments across the calendar year, therefore removing the "peaks and valleys" that could appear month by month billing.



ROCHESTER GAS & ELECTRIC PROGRAMS

Phone: 1-877-266-3492

Assistance for your Rochester Gas & Electric Bill:

www.rge.com/youraccount/payyourbill/serviceandassistance/default.html

NATIONAL GRID PROGRAMS

Phone: Upstate NY - 1-800-642-4272

To report and emergency - 1-800-892-2345

Website: www1.nationalgridus.com/PaymentAssistance

NYSEG PROGRAMS

Phone: 1-800-572-1111

Website: www.nyseg.com/YourAccount/payyourbill/serviceandassistance

Project Share

Funded by employees, retirees, and customers, Project SHARE helps eligible customers pay for energy emergencies such as fuel bills, repairs to heating equipment, home weatherization and water heater replacements. To receive Project SHARE financial assistance, a member of the household must be 60 years of age or older or disabled at any age, and must have exhausted all other assistance programs such as HEAP, food stamps, Medicaid and local or county emergency aid.

Residential Energy Consumer Assistance Program (RECAP)

The Residential Energy Consumer Assistance Program (RECAP) was developed by RG&E to assist eligible customers with their utility bills. The program serves RG&E's income eligible customers and offers an educational component as well as an affordable payment plan.

High-Efficiency Natural Gas Equipment Rebate Program Limited-Time Offer: Rebate Amounts Increased!

RG&E is offering residential natural gas customers rebates to install qualifying natural gas equipment and related control equipment. **For a limited time, RG&E has increased rebate amounts for qualifying equipment installed on or after September 1, 2012.** The rebates are funded through the Public Service Commission-mandated System Benefits Charge that appears on customer bills. **All rebate requests must be reserved at rge.com** using our electronic reservation form, or by calling the energy efficiency hotline at **1.800.995.9525** www.rge.com/usageandsafety/usingenergywisely/eeps/default.html



ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

The following programs are designed to help make New York's homes more energy efficient. These programs help pay for making improvements that will result in a home using less energy. Interested individuals should take advantage of these programs sooner rather than later. Many of these programs are administered through the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).

NYSERDA PROGRAMS

Phone: 1-866-NYSERDA (697-3732)

Website: www.nyserdanyny.gov

On-Bill Recovery Financing Program

The On-Bill Recovery Financing Program allows you to finance energy efficiency improvements to your home through a charge on your utility bill. Your repayment amount will be based on projected savings on your energy bills.

www.nyserdanyny.gov/en/Statewide-Initiatives/On-Bill-Recovery-Financing-Program.aspx

Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program

This program provides incentives and low-interest financing to homeowners to make energy efficiency improvements more affordable. The program works through a network of independent home improvement contractors that are accredited by the Building Performance Institute. The contractor takes a "whole house" approach, by performing an assessment, making recommendations for energy improvements, providing a cost estimate and can even complete the work for the homeowners.

stars.nyserdagreenny.org/steps

Assisted Home performance with Energy Star Program can also be found on NYSERDA's website using the link above.

Multifamily Performance Program

Using a partner network made up of engineers, energy consultants, and other industry professionals, the program uses a customized approach to address the specific energy and operational needs of a building. Implementation of an Energy Reduction Plan and confirmation of achievement of the target make the buildings eligible for NYSERDA incentives.

www.nyserdanyny.gov/multifamily

Weatherization Assistance Services

Program eligibility is based on household income, and both renters and homeowners may apply. For more information, including qualifications and applications, contact your local weatherization provider or visit: **www.nysdhcr.gov/programs/weatherizationassistance** for assistance in identifying weatherization providers in your community. The NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal can also be reached toll-free at **1-866-ASK-DHCR**. (1-866-275-3427)

Service Area: GENESEE & ORLEANS COUNTIES

Contact: JIM SOCCIO

Phone: (585) 589-5605

Email: jsoccio@ocacinc.org

Service Profile: Weatherization assistance providers can assist eligible homeowners with measures to improve energy efficiency including:

- an energy audit of the home to identify specific needs;
- weatherstripping and caulking around doors and windows;
- cleaning, testing, repairs, or replacement of heating systems;
- replacement or repair of storm windows;
- replacement or repair of broken windows and/or outside doors;
- addition of insulation to walls or ceilings; and
- mitigation of health and safety concerns, in particular assure that all dwelling units receive smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

Weatherization Services may also include other energy-related improvements such as: water heater repair/replacement, roof repair/replacement, chimney repairs, lighting fixture replacement, venting systems, heating distribution system replacement, refrigerator replacement, installation of GFCI outlets, and electrical service upgrade.

Niagara Community Action Program, Inc.

1521 Main St

Niagara Falls, NY 14305

Phone: (716) 285-9681

Website: <http://niagaracap.org/>

Community-based Housing Services

