

Here's some help.

- **The Universal Service Fund.** It provides help with energy bills by offering eligible customers a monthly bill credit, which is based on household income and energy burden. It also may offer utility account debt forgiveness for

first-time applicants. Offered by the New Jersey Department of Human Services, to apply call 211 or go online to use the DCAid screening tool.

- **Lifeline:** It provides funding for gas and electric bills for qualifying disabled persons and senior citizens. Applications, which must be made annually, can be made by 800-792-9745 or visit the Lifeline website.

- **Payment Assistance for Gas & Electric.** PAGE helps low- to moderate-income customers who are struggling to pay their electric and natural gas bills. It provides grants to those who are over the income levels for LIHEAP as well as for those who have already applied for LIHEAP but need additional help. To apply call 732-982-8710 or go online to NJPowerOn.org.

- **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.** It helps income-eligible residents with their heating and cooling bills. It can protect customers from shut-off for non-payment or provide help with heating bills. To apply call a hotline at 1-800-510-3102 or go online to use the DCAid screening tool. Grant applications will only be accepted through June 30, 2021, when the blanket moratorium ends.

- **New Jersey SHARES** is a nonprofit corporation that provides assistance to income-eligible customers. It provides a one-time grant of up to \$700 for those who do not qualify for other assistance programs and have a history of paying their utility bills. Visit njsharesgreen.org or call 866-657-4273.

- **2-1-1 Helpline.** The nationwide resource helps to identify locally available programs that may assist customers with utility bills or other needs. Dial 211, text your zip code to 898211, or visit the 211 website.

- **Gift of Warmth.** This program, offered to New Jersey Natural Gas customers, provides a one-time grant of up to \$500 to help households experiencing temporary or financial hardship reconnect or continue their natural gas service. Call 800-221-0051 and say "energy assistance" at the prompt or start an application online.