WEST CENTRAL MINNESOTA

Communities Action

HELPING PEOPLE. CHANGING LIVES.

Water Assistance (LIHWAP) Begins October 1

Program Overview:

- Congress created an emergency water assistance program in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

  - Minnesota received $14,666,970.
  - Water assistance can make payments to public water suppliers on behalf of eligible residential customers.
  - Can pay for past due and current water and wastewater usage charges, fees, and deposits to ensure continuity of service.
- Cannot pay for other municipal services like trash or cable .

How Funds are Distributed

- Customers apply for water assistance using the Energy Assistance Program (EAP) application.
- West Central MN Communities Action is the main point of contact for water suppliers and for customers in your service area.

Per federal requirements, water assistance benefits are prioritized for eligible residential customers in this order:

1. Currently disconnected from water or wastewater services.
2. With a pending water or wastewater disconnection.
3. With a past due water or wastewater bill.

Enclosed you will find the current application. Please provide your customers with this information. Also included are brochures that briefly explain the LIHWAP program. Funds are limited and not guaranteed. Funds are available on a first come first serve basis . Please encourage your customers to apply.

WEST CENTRAL MINNESOTA COMMUNITIES ACTION
411 INDUSTRIAL PARK BLVD ELBOW LAKE MN - 1-800-492-4805 OPTION 1

W

West Central Minnesota Communities Action, Inc.
411 INDUSTRIAL PARK BLVD
ELBOW LAKE, MN 56531

For office use only
HH:
Referral ☐
Rep#:
Grant amount:

Please use black ink to complete your application. Do not use highlighters on the documents you send.

2021-2022 MINNESOTA ENERGY PROGRAMS APPLICATION

West Central Minnesota Communities Action, Inc.
411 INDUSTRIAL PARK BLVD
ELBOW LAKE, MN 56531
Phone: (218) 685-4486 Toll Free: (800) 492-4805
FAX: (218) 685-6741
eap@wcmca.org

WEST CENTRAL MINNESOTA Communities Action — HELPING PEOPLE. CHANGING LIVES.

MN COMMERCE DEPARTMENT

Before completing this application, carefully read the enclosed "Your Rights and Responsibilities" and Instructions.

Part 1. Personal Information - Verify all preprinted information is correct. Enter changes as needed.

Your Social Security Number (SSN)

- Social security numbers (SSN) are required for all household members and will be verified
- If a valid SSN is not available, another form of documentation is required
- If any household members are ineligible non-citizens, your household may still receive assistance if at least 1 household member is a citizen or eligible non-citizen
- We use your SSN to get wage and unemployment compensation information

Your Legal Name: MM – DD – YYYY

First Name ..... M.I. ..... Last Name ..... Date of Birth ..... - ..... - .....

Current Address Where You Live

House Number and Street ..... Apt # .....

City ..... State MN Zip Code ..... County .....

Mailing Address (if different from address where you live):

Street or PO Box ..... Apt # .....

City ..... State ..... Zip Code .....

Language Spoken: .....

Phone: Primary: (.....) ..... O Mobile **Other:** (.....) ..... O Mobile

Email Address: ..... **To contact me in writing, I prefer:** O US Mail (letter) O Email

Authorized Representative: If you complete this section, the "Authorized Representative" has permission to act for you.

First Name ..... Last Name ..... (.....) ..... Phone

If you want the **Authorized Representative** to get mail on your behalf, add their address here:

Street or PO Box ..... Apt # ..... City ..... State ..... Zip Code .....

YOU MUST SIGN AND DATE THIS APPLICATION AT THE BOTTOM OF THE LAST PAGE

Part 2. Household Information

List all household members, starting with you (non-custodial parents may include their minor children):

REQUIRED			LAST 6 MONTHS						
Social Security Number	Legal Name First M.I. Last	Date of Birth	Income	Number of Employers	Gender write in	Race	Hispanic Latino/a/x	Disability	Veteran
555-55-5555	Pat T. Smith	mm-dd-yyyy	Y/N		Female	see below	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N

Attach a separate sheet if necessary for any additional household members.

Race:	**A** = Asian **B** = Black or African American **I** = American Indian or Alaska Native **P** = Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander **W** = White **M** = Multi Race **O** = Other

Is anyone in your household currently an employee *or* board member of this energy assistance agency? O Yes O No

How many people live in your home? _____ How many do NOT have health insurance? _____

Has any household members' income decreased in the past 3 months? O Yes O No If yes, whose _____

Income, benefits and other assistance: Check all that apply for everyone in your household and **send proof.**

Income

- ☐ Wages
- ☐ Self-Employment/Farm Income*

Date Business started: _____/_____

**Send first 2 pages of your most recent IRS-1040 tax return and Schedule 1*

- ☐ Unemployment Compensation
- ☐ Interest or Dividend Income
- ☐ Rental Income
- ☐ Workers' Compensation
- ☐ Contract for Deed Interest

Benefits

- ☐ Social Security Benefits (SSDI, RSDI, SSA)
- ☐ Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- ☐ Pension/Annuity (including quarterly & annual)
- ☐ Retirement Income (including IRA, etc.)
- ☐ Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)
- ☐ General Assistance (GA)
- ☐ Veterans' Benefits
- ☐ Tribal Per Capita Payments
- ☐ Tribal Judgments or Tribal Bonus
- ☐ Long/Short-term Disability
- ☐ Alimony or Spousal Support
- ☐ Diversionary Work (DWP)

No proof of income required:

- ☐ Child Support - Monthly amount $_____
- ☐ Food Support
- ☐ Earned Income Tax Credit
- ☐ No Income: Please call us at (218) 685-4486

Other Assistance

- ☐ Other income not listed: _____

Your application will be delayed if you do not include all required proof of income.

Part 3. Housing Information

Type of Housing:
- O House
- O Apartment/Condo
- O Townhouse
- O Mobile Home
- O Duplex
- O Triplex
- O Fourplex
- O Other

How long have you lived in your current home?

.....Years

.....Months

Do you pay for rent or mortgage? O Yes O No If **yes**, amount you pay: $..... **required**

Renters: Do you get a rent subsidy or do you live in subsidized housing? O Yes O No

Is heat or electricity included in your rent? Check those that apply: ☐ Heat ☐ Electric

Landlord Information Name:..... Phone (.....)

Street or PO Box ..... Apt#.....

City..... State..... Zip Code.....

Homeowners: Do you own or are you buying your home? O Yes O No

If your furnace/heating system is currently **NOT** working, check this box: ☐

Call us immediately at (218) 685-4486 if your furnace/heating system is not working.

Business Use of Home: If you are self-employed, is the business at your home? O Yes O No

If **Yes**, what kind of business and what work is done in your home or on your property?

.....

Do you rent part of your home to anyone? O Yes O No

Part 4. Energy Providers

What companies supply heat, electricity, and water* to your home?

Send a copy of your last bills and/or fuel receipt with this application.

***Help may be available if you have a past due water bill.**

	Main Heating	Other Heating	Electric	Solar Garden	Water
Company Name and Fuel Type:	O Natural Gas O Propane O Oil O Biofuel O Steam	O Natural Gas O Propane O Oil O Biofuel O Steam	☐ Heat with electric		
Account Number:					
Name on Account:					

We will split your benefit between your main heating company and electric company.

OPTIONAL: If you want your benefit paid differently, please indicate below:

O All to main heating O All to electric O Other: .....

Do you share your fuel tank or energy meter with another household? O Yes O No

If you heat with wood or other biofuel:

Biofuel you use - O Wood O Pellets O Corn O Other

What percent of your heat does this supply?.....%

How many bedrooms are in your home?.....

Do you supply your own wood/corn? O Yes O No

Energy or Water Emergency

If you have an emergency right now or cannot pay your past due bill, check the type of situation below and send a copy of the notice:

☐ Already disconnected. Company:..... Disconnect Date:.....

☐ Received disconnect notice. Company:..... Date Scheduled:.....

☐ Cannot pay past due balance. Company:.....

☐ Fuel tank empty (or less than 20% in tank). What % is in your tank today:.....

Contact your energy company to set up a payment plan.

Additional Information

- Do you want information about how free home improvements through the Weatherization Assistance Program may help health conditions like asthma, COPD, other respiratory ailments, heart disease or other chronic conditions? O Yes O No
- Do you want to register to vote or update your registration if you have moved? O Yes O No
- If you listed a mobile device, do you want to receive text messages about the Energy Assistance Program or other programs? O Yes O No
- **How did you hear about the Energy Assistance Program?** O Friends/Family O Newspaper O Radio O Landlord O County Worker O Veteran's Office O Nursing Services O State or County Website O Utility/Fuel Provider O Other .....

CALL US ONLY IF YOU ARE DISCONNECTED OR ARE REFUSED A FUEL DELIVERY. Extra calls slow down processing time. Payments are meant to assist with your utility bills. To avoid disconnection or running out of heating fuel contact your vendor to set up a payment plan or an arrangement on a minimum delivery.

- If your primary grant does not cover the amount required to avoid a crisis, can we use crisis funds to assist you? (circle one) ***Y or N***

Please circle any area you would like to receive information on:

Weatherization	Senior 60+ home modification	Emergency Housing
Head Start/Early Head Start	Home Rehab Loan	Foreclosure Prevention
Budgeting & Energy Conservation	Tax Preparation	MNsure

1. If you have household members who are disabled **(including minor or adult children)** or a **Veteran**, receiving any type of benefits; you **must** send in proof of these benefits these are counted income.
2. Is there an adult (18+) in the home without income? **CIRCLE Y or N.** If **yes**, list the members names and please explain why there is no income below: _____
3. Provide the last date of employment for all household members 18 + who have no income. ____/___/____.

FAILURE TO COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING WILL RESULT IN A PROCESSING DELAY AND POSSIBLE DENIAL OF ASSISTANCE: Please make sure you answer all questions, update as needed, **sign and date the last page,** and include all proof of gross income for all household members 18 and older for the full three months. Please remember to inform us if you move!

Once your application is completed and you are eligible a notification letter will be mailed/emailed to you. 2021 12

Part 5. Consent and Signature for October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022

1. I give my consent for my heating, electric, and water companies to give data about my account and energy and water use to the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Commerce) and Commerce's contractors for the Energy Assistance Program (EAP), the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and the Conservation Improvement Program (CIP).
2. I authorize the Social Security Administration, the Minnesota Department of Human Services and its affiliated agencies, and the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development to share data concerning my Social Security Number, public benefits received, and income within the last year for eligibility for benefits with Commerce and Commerce's contractors for EAP, WAP and CIP.
3. I authorize Minnesota EAP, WAP, and CIP to:
   - Contact my employer to verify my income.
   - Contact my landlord to confirm my residency and/or heating source if I am a renter.
4. I authorize my EAP, WAP and CIP Service Providers to contact me for outreach and referral.
5. By signing, I affirm that all data in this application is correct. I also acknowledge that:
   - I currently reside at the address listed on this application.
   - I am signing on behalf of all household members.
   - I may have to prove my statements.
   - I may be held civilly or criminally liable under federal or state law for knowingly making false or fraudulent statements.
   - I have rights under EAP, WAP, and CIP. I have received a copy of the "Privacy Notice and Your Rights and Responsibilities" and agree to its terms and conditions.
   - I may appeal local Energy Programs Service Provider decisions about my benefits.
   - I understand that missing information will delay decisions about if I can get help.
   - I understand that my Service Provider may be able to help pay past due energy bills and/or make a payment plan with my energy companies.
   - I understand that filling out this application does not guarantee that my household will receive assistance.
   - I am an adult, emancipated minor, or a minor head of a household with no adults or emancipated minors.

Print Name: .....

Signature: ..... **Today's Date:** .....

All applications must be postmarked or received by EAP on or before May 31, 2022.
Your application must be postmarked or received within 60 days of the date you sign it.
Apply early, funds may run out.

2021-2022 MINNESOTA ENERGY PROGRAMS APPLICATION

The Minnesota Energy Programs Application is available in Spanish or in large print from your Service Provider or online at http://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/

This application is used to apply for these programs:

- Energy Assistance Program (EAP)
- Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)
- Conservation Improvement Program (CIP)

How to fill out this application

- Read all the information in this application.
- Fill in all the information for everyone living in your home. ALL people living in the home are household members if they share the kitchen or other living areas in the home.
- Complete and turn in the application, income proof, and other documents to your Service Provider.
- We must have the complete application to determine if you qualify for help.

If you need help filling out this application, call your local EAP Service Provider. Their telephone number is listed on the first page of the Minnesota Energy Programs Application.

Si necesita ayuda para completar esta solicitud, comuníquese con su proveedor de servicio del PAE local. El número de teléfono se encuentra en la primera hoja de la solicitud de los Programas de Energía de Minnesota.

Haddii aad uga baahan tahay caawin buuxinta codsigan, wax Bixiyahaaga Adeega EAP ee maxaliga ah. Lambarka taleefankooda wuxuu ku qoran yahay bogga koowaad ee Codsiga Barnaamijyada Tamarta ee Minnesota.

Yog koj xav tau kev pab sau daim ntawv thov no, hu rau Tus Neeg Muab Kev Pab EAP hauv koj cheeb tsam. Lawv tus xov tooj yog teev rau ntawm thawj nplooj ntawv ntawm Daim Ntawv Thov Minnesota Cov Khoo Kas Pab Them Nqi Hluav Taws Xob.

Nếu quý vị cần hỗ trợ để điền vào đơn đăng ký này, hãy gọi cho Nhà Cung Cấp Dịch Vụ EAP tại địa phương của quý vị. Số điện thoại của các nhà cung cấp được liệt kê trên trang đầu tiên của Đơn Đăng Ký Chương Trình Năng Lượng Minnesota.

Send income proof

- Send proof of all gross income received by all people in your household in the last 3 full calendar months before the month you sign your application. Send copies, originals will not be returned.

Application signed in:	Send proof of gross income received in:	Household income cannot be more than these income guidelines for 3 months:	
August 2021	May, June, July 2021	Household Size	Income
September 2021	June, July, Aug 2021	1	$8,809
October 2021	July, Aug, Sept 2021	2	$11,520
November 2021	Aug, Sept, Oct 2021	3	$14,230
December 2021	Sept, Oct, Nov 2021	4	$16,941
January 2022	Oct, Nov, Dec 2021	5	$19,651
February 2022	Nov, Dec 2021, Jan 2022	6	$22,362
March 2022	Dec 2021, Jan, Feb 2022	7	$22,870
April 2022	Jan, Feb, March, 2022	8	$23,378
May 2022	Feb, March, April 2022	9	$23,887

What proof to send

- **Wages:** EAP may use your SSN to verify wages reported by your employer. We may ask you to provide check stubs or other verification if we are unable to verify your wages.
- **MFIP, GA, DWP:** County statement showing monthly amount or bank statements.
- **Spousal Support or Alimony:** Check copies, bank statements, or a note signed by the payor stating the payment amount and dates, or other proof of amount received.
- **Veteran's Benefits, Social Security, RSDI and SSI:** Award letters, bank statements showing direct deposits, or check copies.

- **Workers' Compensation, Short Term and Long Term Disability**: Benefit award notice, copies of workers' compensation or disability checks, workers' compensation records, or attorney's records.
- **Unemployment Compensation:** EAP may verify this income for you.
- **Self-Employed, Farm, and Rental Income:** The first 2 pages of your most recent IRS-1040 tax return and Schedule 1. If you did not file taxes, call your Service Provider and ask for a Self-Employment Form.
- **Interest, Dividends:** Bank statements, IRS-1099, or IRS-1040.
- **Retirement Income including IRA income:** Benefit checks/stubs, bank statements or award letter.
- **Pensions and Annuities:** Benefit checks/stubs, bank statements or award letter.
- **Tribal Per Capita, Bonus, or Judgment Payments:** Benefit checks/stubs, bank statements or award letter.
- **No Income:** If your household has no income and no one is self-employed, call your Service Provider.

****Please send copies of your income proof. Originals will not be returned****

What happens next?

- Your local Service Provider will review your application and contact you if they need additional information.
- If they have all the necessary information, your Service Provider will process the application as quickly as possible, and you will receive a letter telling you if you can get help.
- If approved, we will pay your benefit to the companies listed on your application.
- If denied, we will tell you the reason and how you may reapply or appeal the decision.

Energy emergency help

The Energy Assistance Program may be able to help if you have an energy emergency. Contact your Service Provider if:

- You have a past due energy bill that you cannot pay
- Your heat or electric is shut off or will be shut-off
- You are unable to get a fuel delivery
- You own your home and your furnace is not working

Social Security Numbers (SSNs)

SSNs are required for all applicants unless you are applying as an eligible non-citizen (for example, a permanent resident, asylee, refugee, etc.). If you do not provide valid social security numbers or immigration documents, we cannot process your application. If you are an eligible non-citizen, you may be able to apply without an SSN. Contact your Service Provider to find out the required documents. If you or some members of your household are ineligible non-citizens, your household may still get help if any household member is a citizen or eligible non-citizen. Contact your Service Provider for details. The State will use SSNs in the administration of EAP to check identity, prevent duplicate participation, and determine eligibility for public benefits. Your SSN will also be used to obtain wage and unemployment compensation information from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), verify information you give us on the application, and to prevent, detect, and correct fraud, waste, and abuse.

Non-Citizen Applicants

To get help from Minnesota Energy Programs, you must be a citizen or in the United States (US) legally. **Energy Assistance benefits are not counted in public charge determinations.** You can apply and get help for eligible household members, even if you or some household members are not eligible because of immigration status. Members of your household who are eligible non-citizens must show proof of their immigration status. Give a copy of both sides of immigration cards or other documents that show immigration status for every household member who is an eligible non-citizen. All household members, regardless of immigration or citizenship status, must provide their income information, but only those who are citizens or eligible non-citizens will be counted as household members. Contact your Service Provider to find out what is required for your situation. **We do not share information about you with the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) without your permission.**

Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) Income Eligibility Guidelines

You may be eligible for the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) even if your household's income is higher than the EAP limits. WAP provides free home energy upgrades to income-eligible homeowners and renters to help save energy and make your home a healthy and safe place to live. For information, visit https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/weatherization or call **1-800-657-3710**

Cold Weather Rule Protection

If you use natural gas or electricity to heat your home or you need electricity to operate your thermostat or furnace fan, you may be eligible for Cold Weather Rule protection between October 1 and April 30.

- The Cold Weather Rule helps protect your service from disconnection or can help you get your service reconnected.
- **To get Cold Weather Rule protection, you MUST contact your energy companies and make and keep a payment plan. If you miss a payment, you lose your protection and you could lose your heat.**
- If you receive Energy Assistance, you pre-qualify for Cold Weather Rule protection. The Energy Assistance Program is not a payment plan and will not replace what you need to pay.
- Your Service Provider can help you make a reasonable payment plan with your energy companies.

Privacy Notice and Your Rights and Responsibilities

Privacy Notice

Privacy Act Provisions: Federal and state laws require us to tell you about your rights and responsibilities before we collect and use information about you that is classified as private or confidential. This form provides you with important information that complies with the federal Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. § 552a(e)(3) and the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minn. Stat. § 13.04, subd. 2 (also referred to as a Tennessen Warning).

Please read this *Privacy Notice* carefully before completing and signing the *Minnesota Energy Programs Application*, and keep this *Privacy Notice* in your records for future use. This *Privacy Notice* applies to the Energy Assistance Program (EAP), Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and Conservation Improvement Program (CIP), also known as Energy Programs.

Why do we collect the information on the application?

We will use your information to research, evaluate and administer the Energy Programs. We need the information:

- To know you from other individuals.
- To see if you qualify for assistance.
- To allow us to get federal or state funds for the assistance you receive.
- To meet federal or state reporting requirements.

Do you have to give us the information?

You have the right to not give us the information we ask for.

What happens if you give or do not give us information?

If you give us the information requested on the application, your application will be processed. If you do not give us that information:

- Your application will not be processed.
- You might not receive services.
- You might not receive help with energy bills.
- Your services might be delayed.

We will keep whatever information you give us, whether or not your application is approved.

Who may see this information?

The following persons may receive information contained in your Energy Programs application if: (i) they need access to the application information to do their jobs in connection with the Energy Programs (EAP, WAP, and CIP), or (ii) they are otherwise authorized by federal or state law to receive it, or (iii) they use the information for reports, to measure outcomes, and for referrals and eligibility purposes:

- Local Energy Programs Service Providers under contract with the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Commerce).
- Community Services Block Grant and Minnesota Community Action Grant Service Providers under contract with Commerce.
- Program auditors as required or permitted by Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance.
- Minnesota Departments of Administration, Commerce, Employment and Economic Development, Health, Housing Finance Agency, Human Services, Revenue and MN.IT Services.
- United States Departments of Health and Human Services and Energy.
- Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.
- Minnesota Legislative Auditor.
- Persons so authorized pursuant to court order.
- Your energy companies for affordability and Energy Programs.
- Minnesota Community Action Partnership.
- United States Social Security Administration.
- Other agencies or entities as allowed by federal or state law.

Why do we collect Social Security Numbers?

We use Social Security Numbers in the administration of the Energy Programs (EAP, WAP, and CIP) to assure eligible applicants and their household members receive only allowable benefits. Federal law allows us to require you to disclose your Social Security Number in order to process your application and to prevent, detect and correct fraud and abuse. AUTHORITY: Section 205(c)(2)(C)(i) of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 405(c)(2)(C)(i). All applicants (except eligible non-citizens) are required to provide a verifiable Social Security Number in order to process your application.

Why do we ask for information about your race?

This is voluntary information. It is compiled and recorded for statistical purposes only. The program cannot discriminate for reason of race or ethnic background, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or political affiliation.

Your Rights and Responsibilities

You have certain rights to get help:

You have the right:

- To apply again if you get denied.
- To apply for more help if you need it.
- To know what the rules are and how we decide what help you get.
- To receive a response within a reasonable time of submitting all information.
- To appeal within 30 days after you are sent the results of your application if:
  - You receive a denial letter and think we used the wrong information to make the decision.
  - You do not receive the help you were promised.

You have these responsibilities:

You must tell us if you or any member of your household:

- Received help with your energy bills earlier this winter.
- Move to a new address (tell us within 30 days of the move).
- Change your fuel dealer or gas or electric companies.

This program may pay only part of your heating and electric bills. You are responsible to pay the rest.

What if you think the information in your file is wrong?

Talk to your local EAP Service Provider about what you think is wrong in your file.

What happens if you give false information?

The local EAP Service Providers or the Minnesota Department of Commerce may check and verify any of the information contained on your application or otherwise provided. You may be denied Energy Program benefits if you provide incomplete or false information. You may be held civilly or criminally liable under federal or state law for knowingly making false or fraudulent statements on your application.

How to submit a complaint:

If you think your energy payment was not what it should be or you did not get the services you thought you would, you may contact the local EAP Service Provider listed on the application. If you are not satisfied with their answer, you may write an appeal letter to the local EAP Service Provider. Keep a record of their address and telephone number.

If you are not satisfied with their response to your appeal, write to:

Appeals Officer
Energy Assistance Program
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 East 7th Place, Suite 280
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

If you feel you have been treated differently because of your color, race, national origin, religion, sex, gender, age, marital status, political beliefs, or physical, mental or emotional disability, write to one of the following:

Minnesota Department of Human Rights
Grigg's Midway Building
540 Fairview Ave. N, Suite 201
St. Paul, MN 55104
https://mn.gov/mdhr/

-OR-

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Office for Civil Rights, Region V
233 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 1300
Chicago, IL 60601
www.hhs.gov/ocr/civilrights/complaints