



BERNIE SANDERS

UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR VERMONT

As temperatures drop across Vermont, many of our friends and neighbors may struggle to afford to heat their homes. Fortunately, help is available. The following programs can assist Vermonters in staying warm during these colder months. If you need further assistance, please call my office at 800-339-9834 or call Vermont 2-1-1.

SEASONAL FUEL ASSISTANCE

This program helps income-eligible homeowners and renters pay for heat and is funded through the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Renters may qualify even if heat is included in rental costs. Participation in this program may also increase monthly 3SquaresVT benefits. To apply, contact the Vermont Department of Children and Families' Economic Services Division Office online at <https://dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/fuel> or by calling 800-479-6151. Older Vermonters can also call the Senior Helpline for assistance at 800-648-5119.

EMERGENCY/GENERAL ASSISTANCE

This program may help if you need assistance to meet an emergency heating, housing, medical, personal, or burial need. Visit: <https://dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/EA-GA> or call 800-479-6151 or 2-1-1 for information on benefits, eligibility, and how to apply.

REBATES AND FINANCING FOR REPLACING HEATING SYSTEMS

In addition to FEMA assistance, eligible Vermont homeowners may be able to get help with rebates and financing to replace heating systems, water heating systems, and other appliances damaged or destroyed by the floods. This Efficiency Vermont program also includes information on energy-efficient options that may be available during the rebuilding process. Rebates for Vermonters impacted by the 2023 flooding are available now, and rebates for those impacted by the 2024 flooding will be available soon. More information is available at

<https://www.encyvermont.com/floodrebate>

or by calling 888-921-5990.

WARMTH PROGRAM

This program helps Vermont Families pay for fuel and utility bills not covered by seasonal or crisis fuel assistance. It also offers financial counseling and assistance in applying for other programs like 3SquaresVT and home weatherization. To apply, contact your local Community Action Agency, which you can find at:

<https://dcf.vermont.gov/contacts/partners/caps> or by calling 2-1-1.

UTILITY ASSISTANCE

Green Mountain Power and Vermont Gas have programs to help low-income Vermonters heat and light their homes in the winter. For information on eligibility and how to apply, 800-775-0516 or visit www.energyhelp.vt.gov.

CRISIS FUEL ASSISTANCE

If you are low on fuel and cannot afford more, crisis fuel assistance may be able to help. This program can also pay to repair or replace furnaces and fuel tanks and help you negotiate a payment plan. To apply, contact your local Community Action Agency, which can be found by visiting

<https://dcf.vermont.gov/contacts/partners/caps> or calling 2-1-1.

EMERGENCY HEATING SYSTEM PROGRAM:

This program helps repair or replace the primary heat source for eligible Vermonters experiencing a heating issue. To apply, contact your local Community Action Agency, which you can find at: <https://dcf.vermont.gov/contacts/partners/caps> or by calling 2-1-1. If you are older, disabled, or have a child under 6 in your household, you may call 1-877-295-7998 on weekends and holidays to apply.

ASSISTANCE FOR VERMONTERS IMPACTED BY FLOODING

FEMA's Individual Assistance (IA) program can provide impacted Vermonters – homeowners who live in counties covered by a disaster declaration – with financial support to repair or replace damaged heating systems. FEMA has made significant updates to this program since the July 2023 flood, so you are encouraged to apply even if you were not eligible for assistance last year.

Please remember: Even if you have reported damage to 2-1-1, you must still register and apply through FEMA for assistance.

The deadline is November 25, 2024.

To get started applying and to check eligibility, visit www.DisasterAssistance.gov, call 1-800-621-FEMA (3362), or download the **FEMA App**. Those who use a relay service should update FEMA with their specific number assigned to that service. To learn about additional local assistance, contact your local Long Term Recovery Group. Details and contact information are available [HERE](#).

If you have questions or need assistance, please call my office at **800-339-9834.**

Income guidelines and other eligibility criteria apply.