

2021-2022

Lehigh County Authority Hardship Program

The **Lehigh County Authority Hardship Program**, which is administered by Dollar Energy Fund, assists eligible utility customers with their **water and sewer** bills. Customers may be eligible to receive a grant that is applied directly to their bill. Our program is a fund of last resort because it goes above and beyond what is available through federal, state and other programs.

Program guidelines and eligibility requirements are subject to change.

Program Dates:

Open from **October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022**, for services that are **off or in threat of termination**.

Grants are dispersed on a first come, first serve basis to eligible applicants while funding is available.

Sincere Effort of Payment:

Applicants must have paid at least **\$100** on their account in the past **four months**.

Balance Requirement:

Applicants must have an outstanding balance on their bill of at least **\$200**.

Maximum Grant:

The maximum grant amount an applicant may receive is **\$400**.

Applicants can only receive one grant, per program year. **(10/1/2021 – 9/30/2022)**

Grant awards are based on need and each family's circumstances are different. Grant amounts are determined on a case-to-case basis. Exceptions may be made in cases of extreme hardships.

If a customer's utility service is off or in threat of termination when they apply and the maximum grant amount will not restore service or stop termination, the application will be denied. The amount needed to restore service or stop a termination is determined by utility review. Notification will be sent to the customer advising them that their application was denied and that an additional payment is required in order to be considered for assistance.

Additional Guidelines:

- Name on account must be that of an adult who is currently living in the home.
- Account must be residential, single home or apartment. No "cooking only," commercial, industrial, or apartments with shared utility service.
- All applicants must provide verification of income.
- Income-eligible clients must apply for all federally funded programs when those programs are open.
- Dollar Energy Fund grants cannot be used to cover security deposits or reconnection fees.

Income Guidelines:

Total gross household income for customers must be at or below **200%** of the **2022 Federal Poverty Income Guidelines*** as shown in the chart below.

Household Size	200% Monthly	200% Yearly
1	\$2,265	\$27,180
2	\$3,052	\$36,620
3	\$3,838	\$46,060
4	\$4,625	\$55,500
5	\$5,412	\$64,940
6	\$6,198	\$74,380
7	\$6,985	\$83,820
8	\$7,772	\$93,260
Each add'l add	\$787	\$9,440

**The 2022 Federal Poverty Income Guidelines took effect on February 1, 2022 and will remain in effect for the remainder of the program year.*

How to Apply:

The Lehigh County Authority Hardship Program partners with a network of Community Based Organizations. These dedicated agencies provide application intake services for clients. Find an agency in your area with Dollar Energy Fund's [Agency Finder](#).

Lehigh County Authority customers who are eligible for assistance may be able to complete portions of their application through Dollar Energy Fund's online [MyApp](#) portal.