

Broome County  
Office for Aging



# *Weatherization & Home Repair Programs*

## *Benefits and Standards of Eligibility*



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Please review the information below to find the type of service you need. Then go to the agency's page where you will find additional information.

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**Project SHARE Heating Fund**  
**Heart Share Human Services of New York**

12 MetroTech Center, 29<sup>th</sup> Floor

Brooklyn, NY 11201

1-844-579-5555

www.heartshare.org

**Benefit** Allows for assistance up to \$200 toward a heating fuel expense if the following eligibility is met. Clients can only receive this benefit once every 12 months (365 days), from the date they last applied.

**Eligibility** To be eligible for a grant:

- a) Must have an active account with NYSEG or RG&E; and
- b) Must have an energy emergency, either an active disconnect notice OR less than 10-day supply of fuel (oil, propane, kerosene, and wood); and
- c) Must meet the HEAP income guidelines (listed on page 2); and
- d) Must have exhausted benefits available from HEAP and all other benefits before applying; and
- e) Must be the customer of record or tenant of record.

**Exceptions for Active-Duty Military and Veterans**

Active-duty military personnel and those veterans with an honorable or general discharge, may qualify for a Project SHARE Heating Fund grant without adhering to the eligibility guidelines above.

- They may qualify regardless of income (receiving the HEAP grant is not a requirement).
- The active account may be in the spouse's/partner's name.
- The military member or veteran does not have to reside in the household, however, the spouse/partner must.
- The household must have an active disconnect notice.
- Applicant must provide proof of military status.

**Note** Program usually opens in February, it ONLY helps with clients who have an active shut off notice on an account or a low fuel supply and is only available until funds are exhausted.

There is documentation needed and an application required to apply, please call the number above to find a location through which you can apply.

**Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)**  
**Heating Equipment Repair and Replacement Program (HERR)**  
The Career & Community Service Center of Broome County (The CCSC)  
501 Reynolds Road, Johnson City, NY 13790  
607-778-1100

**Benefit** For eligible homeowners, HERR will repair or, if necessary, replace furnaces that are either not working or working but not safe. A high level of carbon monoxide is a common safety problem. The repair of chimneys, chimney liners, venting to the chimney, boiler system piping, and the replacement of oil tanks—may also be covered by this benefit. Maximum replacement benefit amount is \$8,000 available once every 10 years. The maximum for repairs is \$4,000 per season, meaning more than 1 repair can be done until the total of repairs reaches the maximum amount.

**Eligibility** HERR eligibility is based on a number of factors:

- Applicants must have owned their residence and used it as their primary residence for the past 12 months.
- Applicants must have used the heating equipment as their primary heating source for the past 12 months.
- Household must meet the income eligibility requirements for regular HEAP heating assistance (listed below).
- The applicant, any co-owners, and all household members must demonstrate that they have inadequate savings to pay for the repair by meeting program resource limits. The resource limit is \$10,000 for the applicant and their household and any co-owners living outside of the household.

The 2023-2024 gross monthly income limits for regular HEAP are as

(Income guidelines may change before the next HEAP season opens in November of 2023):

\$3,035 for a household of 1

\$3,970 for a household of 2

\$4,904 for a household of 3

\$5,838 for a household of 4

\$6,772 for a household of 5

*Higher income levels for larger households*

**Note** Applicants should call The CCSC office to check if funding is currently available, and to get a complete list of documents needed to apply. Must document income and financial resources, applicants must also document that they own the home. Land contracts and rent-to-owns will not be approved. Resources of anyone listed as co-owner, count in the resource test. Where co-owners will not disclose resources, a prorated benefit may still be available. Applicants must fill out a paper application. If denied for HERR NYSERDA EmPower-Plus might be able to help.

**Faith in Action Volunteers**  
**Broome County Council of Churches**  
**Ramp It Up Program**  
3 Otsiningo St., Binghamton, NY 13903  
607-724-9130 ext. 323  
broomecouncil.net

- Benefit**      The Ramp It Up Program builds wheelchair ramps with volunteer youth groups and community organizations under the direction of skilled mentors. All ramps are built in the summer months, but applications are accepted year-round. Payment is determined by a sliding scale based on income. Donations are always accepted.
- Eligibility**    There is no age, income or asset eligibility test for the ramp program. Those served are chosen on the basis of need alone and, in the case of ramp construction, on the ability to build the ramp as code ordinances would require.
- Note**            The Council accepts applications for ramps year round. Applications are available on the Broome County Council of Churches website or by calling the number listed above and making a request.

**A. HOME REPAIR PROGRAM**

- Benefit** The Home Repair Program provides minor repairs labor free to low income households. The homeowner pays for materials. Stair replacement, minor electrical and plumbing repairs are typical services provided by repairmen on First Ward's staff.
- Eligibility** Seniors and disabled. Eligibility for free labor depends on income level, call to check which areas this service covers.

**B. RESTORE**

- Benefit** Grants up to \$10,000 to fund emergency repairs for the elderly. Projects can include; heating system repair or replacement, electrical repairs or upgrades, plumbing repairs that address a health risk, structural repairs, health or safety accessibility improvements.
- Eligibility** Age 60 and older. The grant is reserved for those in greatest need. Call to ask about eligibility of funding.

**C. AHC Home Improvement Grants**

- Benefit** The AHC Home Improvement program is a grant program that funds larger repairs including replacing roofs for low and moderate-income homeowners in Broome County. Repairs can include repair or replacement of major housing systems and code compliance projects. Repairs are generally needed property improvements rather than remodeling, or cosmetic improvements.
- Eligibility** Is based on income. For clients of any age. Call to ask about eligibility of funding.

**D. ACCESS TO HOME; (Also a MEDICAID and VETERANS program)**

- Benefit** Grant programs that can fund a variety of accessibility-pertinent jobs including: ramps, chair lifts, leveling floors, lowering cabinets, creating a ground-floor bathroom, walk-in showers or tubs, widening of doorways, and more.
- Eligibility** Eligibility is based on income; call First Ward for more information on qualifications and availability of funding. Separate programs for those who are veterans, and those on Medicaid. For clients of any age. A three-tiered eligibility range exists for each of these programs.

**NYSERDA - EmPower +**  
www.nyserda.ny.gov  
1-877-NYSMART (1-877-697-6278)

- Benefit** Provides for energy efficient solutions to income eligible New Yorkers. Contractors complete a home energy assessment to identify areas of possible energy improvements, some services that may be provided are installing high-efficiency light bulbs, replacing inefficient refrigerators and freezers, adding insulation, sealing drafts, and heating system upgrades and repairs.
- Eligibility** Household must be eligible for HEAP (see DSS listing on page 2) and be deemed to use excessive amounts of electricity. Renters can also receive services through EmPower but the owners of the rental properties that receive Weatherization funds are generally required to contribute a portion of the cost of the work.
- Note** OFA has applications, or an application can be received through calling NYSERDA directly. EmPower cannot reimburse for work that has already been completed.

**NYSERDA – EmPower+**  
www.nyserda.ny.gov  
1-877-NYSMART (1-877-697-6278)

- Benefit** Schedule a home energy assessment and then apply to receive a discount on the cost of eligible energy efficient improvements. The discount provides a 50% matching grant up to \$5,000 to cover improvements, they have a list available on their website. This program also offers low interest loans to help finance the improvements.
- Eligibility**
- | Income Limits |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1 Person      | \$45,632.00 |
| 2 Person      | \$59,680.00 |
| 3 Person      | \$73,728.00 |
- Note** This grant program suits those who are over-income for HEAP (eligibility guidelines are listed on pg. 2).



**Tioga Opportunities, Inc.**  
**Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)**

9 Sheldon Guile Blvd., Owego, NY 13827

www.tiogaopp.org

607-687-0944 or toll-free 877-786-2419 - Ask for Energy Services

**Benefit** Serving both Broome and Tioga counties, this weatherization agency may install insulation, weather-stripping and air-sealants, checks appliances for clean combustion and proper venting and may also replace badly worn doors and windows following the results of an energy assessment. The agency has the authority to replace furnaces in cases where neither the Emergency HEAP Program nor the homeowner can do so. This is not an emergency repair/replacement program.

This weatherization agency is a subcontractor for the NYSERDA Empower NY Program (see p. 5).

**Eligibility** The applicant must own the home or have life rights to the house, have lived on the property for at least one year, and be eligible for HEAP (See DSS HEAP income guidelines on p. 2). Call to get information on income guidelines for higher household sizes.

Land contracts count as ownership if the contract states that the purchaser has complete responsibility to pay taxes and to maintain the property, is notarized and registered with the Broome County Clerk.

The program may provide weatherization services to those who rent if the owner of the property agrees (property owners may be required to contribute 25-30% of the cost of the work if they themselves are not income eligible for the program). There is also a \$500 **per unit** audit fee that the property owner is responsible for.

**Note** Check with Tioga Opportunities for more information on availability of funding. Also offering Radon Services.

**USDA Rural Development**  
One North Main Street, Cortland, NY 13045  
www.rd.usda.gov  
315-736-3316 ext. 4

**Benefit**      USDA’s Section 504 Home Repair program aids homeowners with very low income in eligible rural areas through loans or grants to elderly homeowners with very low-income. The maximum loan amount is \$40,000 and it can be used for general repairs and improvements. The maximum grant amount is \$10,000 and it must be used to remove health and safety hazards.

The loans and grants can be combined for up to \$50,000 in assistance, if eligible.

**Eligibility**    For a loan, the recipient must be the homeowner (both the dwelling and the land) and occupy the house, they must be unable to obtain affordable credit elsewhere and the family income must meet income guidelines (there are income guidelines for each County available on the website, or you can call)

For a grant, recipients must be at least age 62, own the property (both the dwelling and the land) and meet income eligibility guidelines. Please call USDA Rural Development for income guidelines. Anyone can check “property eligibility” at the website above to see if the address is within USDA’s rural service area. There is a lifetime limit of \$10,000 and if the property is sold in less than 3 years the grant must be repaid.

**Note:**            Before starting the application, make clear copies of all financial statements showing household income, assets and liabilities. Make sure those amounts are on application with explanatory notes if it is not clear which figure goes where. Enclose and mail copies of supporting documents requested by the agency. This information is basic and should allow USDA to determine eligibility.

To find more information on approval time for an application please contact the local USDA home loan specialist in the area, the number is listed for the contact in Cortland.

**The Impact Project**  
4 Clinton St., Greene, NY  
<http://theimpactprojectgreene.org>  
607-656-9499

- Benefit** Through their repair and rehabilitation projects, the Impact Project helps low income families maintain and increase equity in their homes and stabilize their housing situation. Offer assistance with replacing roofs, weatherization, building ramps, and replacing furnaces.
- Eligibility** Primary target population is elderly, handicapped or low income home owners with income below the Federal Poverty Guidelines whose homes need major repairs and/or handicapped accessibility.
- Note** To request an application, call the Impact Project or request them to contact you through their website. The Impact Project does not complete work that requires excavating, mason work or fixing of wells.

## **Greater Opportunities of Broome and Chenango**

Chenango Office

44 West Main Street Norwich, NY

<http://greaterops.org>

607-334-7114

### **A. Mobile and Manufactured Home Replacement**

**Benefit** Mobile and Manufacture Home Replacement program assists low- and moderate-income homeowners to replace dilapidated mobile or manufactured homes that are on land owned by the homeowner with a new manufactured home.

**Eligibility** Individuals living in pre-1976 mobile homes or post-1976 manufactured homes that need serious repairs, including structural and with systematic deficiencies. Income guidelines apply and the home and the land must be owned by the homeowner.

## **Home Weatherization and Repair Services for Hire**

Please check the previous pages for financial assistance programs to help with weatherization and repairs. If you have already looked and you do not qualify for the financial assistance programs or if you only need small repairs, this page lists some private hire options for you to contact.

*These are just a few resources available in the area. Check local phone books and other local resources for a more comprehensive listing.*

### **Access Ability Design Group**

**(607) 648-5304**

A resource established to provide a comprehensive source for consultation, design, planning and construction management services to meet the unique needs and specialized requirements of our individual clients, families and firms.

### **Handyman 4 Seniors**

**(888) 540-0320**

A professional carpenter who provides home repair services. Call for more information and pricing.

### **Senior Helpers**

**(607) 778-6105**

**(Monday – Friday 8:30 – 12:00 noon)**

Can be hired for small repairs and maintenance.

### **Southern Tier Home Builders and Remodelers Association (STHBRA)**

**(607) 785-9285**

A network of contractors, roofers, electricians, plumbers and other industry professionals who offer basic repairs, major home repairs, or home modifications. The association provides names and phone numbers of members who will then provide an estimate for your building project.

They also have a means of reporting fraudulent contractors.

**Broome County  
Office for Aging**  
County Office Building  
60 Hawley Street  
Binghamton, NY 13901

Phone (607) 778-2411

Fax (607) 778-2316

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Website: [www.gobroomecounty.com/senior](http://www.gobroomecounty.com/senior)

