

Broome County
Office for Aging



Weatherization & Home Repair Programs

Benefits and Standards of Eligibility



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www.gobroomecounty.com/senior
Updated: February 2020

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, 29th Floor

Brooklyn, NY 11201

1-844-579-5555

www.heartshare.org

Benefit Allows for assistance up to \$350 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 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.

DSS Emergency HEAP
Heating Equipment Repair and Replacement Program
36-42 Main St., Binghamton, NY 13905
607-778-1100

Benefit For eligible homeowners, DSS HEAP 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. The maximum replacement benefit amount is \$6,500 available not more than once every 10 years. The maximum for repairs is \$3000 per season, meaning more than 1 repair can be done until the total of all repairs reaches the maximum amount.

Eligibility Applicants must have owned their residence and used it as their primary residence for the past 12 months in addition to meeting the income eligibility requirements for regular HEAP heating assistance and also demonstrate that they have inadequate savings to pay for the repair. This program requires that applicants use all but the last \$3,000 of their savings(after allowable exemptions) toward the furnace repair. For example, if the furnace replacement would cost \$6,000 and the applicant also has \$6,000 in savings, HEAP would require the applicant to contribute \$3,000 toward the repair. The 2019-2020 gross monthly income limits for regular HEAP are as follows (The following income guidelines may change before HEAP season opening in November of 2020):

- \$2,494 for a household of 1
- \$3,262 for a household of 2
- \$4,030 for a household of 3
- \$4,797 for a household of 4
- \$5,565 for a household of 5

Higher income levels for larger households

Note Applicants should call the Emergency HEAP office to check if funding is currently available, and also to get a complete list of documents needed to apply for the furnace repair. Besides documenting income and financial resources, applicants must also document that they own the home. Land contracts and rent to owns do not satisfy the ownership test. The resources of anyone listed as co-owner, such as a child or estranged spouse, count in the resource test. Where co-owners will not disclose resources, a prorated benefit may still be available. Applicants or their representatives must apply in person at DSS. Under some circumstances, DSS may send a caseworker to the applicant to help collect documents and complete paperwork. If the emergency HEAP program is closed, DSS Emergency Assistance may be able to extend a loan for furnace repair.

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

- Benefit** The Ramp It Up Program builds wheelchair ramps with volunteer youth groups 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.

First Ward Action Council
167 Clinton St., Binghamton, NY 13905
www.firstwardaction.org
607-772-2850

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.

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.

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.

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. 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 NY
Syracuse, NY
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 - Assisted Home Performance
Albany, NY
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 \$4,000 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 | \$39,904.00 |
| 2 Person | \$52,192.00 |
| 3 Person | \$64,480.00 |
- 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 installs insulation, weather-stripping and air-sealants, checks appliances for clean combustion and proper venting and may also replace badly worn doors and windows. 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 also 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 they property owner is responsible for.

Note Check with Tioga Opportunities for more information on availability of funding.

USDA Rural Development

One North Main Street, Cortland, NY 13045

www.rd.usda.gov

607-753-0851 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.

Access to Independence of Cortland County
Accessibility Modification Program
26 North Main Street, Cortland, NY 13045
<http://www.aticortland.org/>
607-753-7363

- Benefit** Agency is dedicated to making homes and businesses safe and accessible. Projects include wheelchair ramps and lifts, accessible porches and decks, handrails, expanded doorways, roll-in showers with grab bars, bathtub grab bars and seats, kitchen modifications, and relocation of bathroom or bedroom.
- Eligibility** Medicaid waivers and various grant programs are available for those meeting eligibility requirements. They work with both owner-occupied homes and with those who rent.
- Note** Income qualifications vary throughout New York State – call agency for more information.

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.

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

Email: ofa@co.broome.ny.us

Website: www.gobroomecounty.com/senior

