LIHEAP OPENING PRESS RELEASE

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News Release —Office of [insert office]

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: [insert date]

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| Lt. Gov. Crouch, IHCDA open applications for Indiana’s Energy Assistance Program Funding available to help households pay their energy bills  Indianapolis ([insert date]), – [Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch](https://www.in.gov/lg/?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) and the [Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority](https://www.in.gov/ihcda/?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) (IHCDA) have opened applications for Indiana’s [**Energy Assistance Program**](https://www.in.gov/ihcda/homeowners-and-renters/low-income-home-energy-assistance-program-liheap/?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)(EAP). This program is designed to help households across the state pay their bills and avoid shutoffs, especially during the winter months. Qualified Indiana households can now apply for federal funding to help pay their utility bills. Applications will be accepted until May 20, 2024 at 5 PM EST.  **Energy Assistance Program**  IHCDA has been managing the Energy Assistance Program (EAP) since 2006. Community organizations designated by the state, called local service providers, are responsible for client intake and eligibility determination. These community organizations ensure that the program covers all 92 counties in Indiana. Information on LSPs can be found by visiting [EAP.ihcda.in.gov](https://www.in.gov/ihcda/homeowners-and-renters/low-income-home-energy-assistance-program-liheap/?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery). EAP can help cover utility costs associated with electricity, gas, and a home’s bulk fuel heating source.  **Water Assistance Program**  The Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is no longer provided. LIHWAP was a **temporary** emergency water/wastewater program that helped low-income households and families during the COVID-19 pandemic.  It was used to fund a one-time benefit for **eligible**households who had water/wastewater services with a participating Indiana utility vendor. LIHWAP is closed with no additional funding available.  **Eligibility Requirements**  Households that make 60% of the state median income (60 SMI) or less are encouraged to apply for the program. See the chart below for a more detailed breakdown of income eligibility requirements. If a household is unsure if they meet income requirements, they are encouraged to fill out an application with the proper documentation so their eligibility can be determined.  **PROGRAM YEAR 2023-2024 INCOME ELIGIBILITY**  A screenshot of a computer  Description automatically generated with medium confidence  **How to Apply**  Indiana residents can apply online by visiting [EAP.ihcda.in.gov](https://www.in.gov/ihcda/homeowners-and-renters/low-income-home-energy-assistance-program-liheap/?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery). While there, residents will find a list of local service providers and the various ways to connect with them. Residents can also apply in-person or mail in applications. Households can also call 2-1-1 to complete an application over the phone. 2-1-1 can also help connect you to the EAP local service provider in your area.  If residents have a disconnected utility, have received a notice for disconnection, or are almost out of bulk fuel, they should call their local service provider immediately, as they may be eligible for a crisis benefit. |

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The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA), chaired by [Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDQsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA5MDMuNDU0NDI2NzEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5pbi5nb3YvbGcvP3V0bV9jb250ZW50PSZ1dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.oIU_5m_6QF7lUcRUmRiDyIVRbqNL0Pz_x68-BqRtZiY/s/1547870461/br/111845991960-l?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery), provides housing opportunities, promotes self-sufficiency and strengthens communities in order to build an Indiana with a sustainable quality of life for all Hoosiers in the community of their choice. For more information, visit our [website](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDUsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA5MDMuNDU0NDI2NzEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5pbi5nb3YvaWhjZGEvP3V0bV9jb250ZW50PSZ1dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkifQ.W0N7qAvmaz_AQMWNzpFW56h5u7BWxwnUjYGugHnw8Eg/s/1547870461/br/111845991960-l?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery).

**[insert LSP boilerplate]**