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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 and Water Assistance Programs Funding available to help households pay their energy and water/wastewater utility 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) and Water Assistance Program (WAP). These programs are 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 15, 2023.  **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**  Households can apply for water/wastewater utility assistance in the same application as energy assistance. When completing the EAP application, applicants must check a box to apply for water assistance and submit their most recent bill. The same LSPs that administer EAP also administer this program. The water assistance program is a temporary emergency program to help low-income households catch up on their water and wastewater bills during the COVID-19 pandemic, though the program does not require proof of COVID-19 hardship to apply.  **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 2022-2023 INCOME ELIGIBILITY**   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Household Size | 1 Month | 3 Months | 12 Months | | 1 | $       2,318 | $         6,954 | $       27,827 | | 2 | $       3,032 | $         9,096 | $       36,390 | | 3 | $       3,746 | $       11,238 | $       44,952 | | 4 | $       4,459 | $       13,377 | $       53,515 | | 5 | $       5,173 | $       15,519 | $       62,077 | | 6 | $       5,886 | $       17,658 | $       70,639 | | 7 | $       6,020 | $       18,060 | $       72,245 | | 8 | $       6,154 | $       18,462 | $       73,850 | | 9 | $       6,288 | $       18,864 | $       75,456 |   **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 and ask to be connected to the EAP local service provider in their 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]**