



### What are SER and LIHEAP?

The State Emergency Relief (SER) program provides financial assistance to Michigan residents facing extreme hardship or emergencies that threaten health and safety. One part of this program, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), consists of federal funds for crisis assistance for energy-related services like heat and electricity. Low-income households that meet all SER eligibility requirements may receive assistance with heat and electric costs.

### Changes for Fiscal Year 2025

To avoid exhaustion of LIHEAP funding for Fiscal Year 2025, which begins October 1, MDHHS has implemented SER policy changes for energy-related services (natural gas, electricity, propane, wood, wood pellets, fuel oil and coal) as follows:

**Service Caps** – The maximum benefit for the fiscal year for natural gas, wood, wood pellets and electricity is \$500, and for propane, fuel oil and coal is \$800.

**Single Payment** – SER requests for an energy-related service are subject to one payment for heat-related (natural gas, propane, wood, wood pellets, fuel oil and coal) and one for non-heat electric. To receive a single payment, an individual or household must have a past due account or shut-off notice on an energy bill or the propane tank is estimated to contain no more than 25% of its heating fuel capacity or has more than 25% and the tank has been locked by the provider. All other SER eligibility requirements must be met.

**Crisis Season** – Payments will only be issued during the crisis season, which begins October 1 and continues until resources are exhausted.



### Other Resources

An applicant that has received a single payment for heat or non-heat electricity service during the crisis season means the household qualifies for additional energy services through the Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP). The applicant is encouraged to call 2-1-1 for a referral to a MEAP grantee to determine eligibility for other assistance. They may also log in to MI Bridges ([Michigan.gov/MIbridges](http://Michigan.gov/MIbridges)) to explore additional resources.