

# NEWS RELEASE



**MECKLENBURG COUNTY**  
North Carolina  
Public Information Department

## **Help with Heating Bills: Applications for Assistance Begin Dec. 1**

**Mecklenburg County, NC**—It's getting colder outside, and everyone is turning up the thermostat inside. That means heating bills will soon come due.

Mecklenburg County residents who have trouble paying their winter heating bills can get help through Mecklenburg County's [Low Income Energy Assistance Program](#) (LIEAP). It is one of several programs that help low-income households with their immediate energy needs, so they do not need to choose between heating their homes and other basic needs.

Mecklenburg County will begin taking LIEAP applications on Dec. 1 for senior citizens aged 60 and older or disabled individuals who get help through the N.C. Division of Aging and Adult Services. All other households can apply beginning Jan. 1, 2024. The deadline to apply is March 31, 2024.

**APPLY:** Visit [MeckNC.gov/ENERGY](https://www.MeckNC.gov/ENERGY) or call **704-336-3000** to begin the application process.

Residents can apply for LIEAP through March 31, but there are other programs that can help year-round. An applicant does not need to be behind on energy bills to receive a one-time LIEAP payment in the amount of \$300, \$400 or \$500 based on their primary heating source. Applicants must meet income guidelines, be responsible for the bill, provide their account number, and show proof of income.

Households must meet the following criteria:

- At least one eligible U.S. citizen or legal resident
- Be responsible for the heating cost
- Income at or below 150% (60 years of age or older) or 130% (under 60) of the Federal Poverty Limit

In addition to the application, an interview is required, and applicants must provide:

- Identification, such as a driver license, State ID card, or passport
- Utility bill
- Social Security number
- Proof of income

If approved, a one-time payment will be made directly to the applicant's utility company. Payments will not be made to the applicant.

There are several programs to help Mecklenburg County residents pay their heating or cooling bills, including the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) and the Crisis Intervention Program (CIP). To learn more, visit [MeckNC.gov/ENERGY](https://www.MeckNC.gov/ENERGY).