

If I Need . . .

Housing, Utility or Home Repair

Housing Resources

Information about housing options that fit your needs may be found through ILHousingSearch.org. The site provides detailed information about rental properties and provides links to housing resources and helpful tools for renters.

www.ilhousingsearch.org/



Homeless Prevention

You may qualify to receive temporary help if you are currently homeless or in immediate danger of eviction, foreclosure or homelessness. You will be asked to document a temporary economic crisis and demonstrate an ability to meet the future rental/utility costs after the assistance has been given.

How to Access this Benefit:

www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=64685

www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=29723

Energy Bill Assistance

The **Illinois Home Weatherization Program** helps households whose incomes are at or below 200% FPL. The type of help provided includes:

- Repairing or replacing windows and doors
- Furnace cleaning, safety checking, repair, or replacement
- Installing smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers
- Insulating walls and attics
- Sealing cracks with weather-strip and caulk

You may qualify for weatherization services whether you own or your rent your home. If you rent, the owner must agree to repairs.

LIHEAP

(Low Income Housing and Energy Assistance Program) provides help with the cost of winter heating for households with income at or below 150% FPL. LIHEAP provides energy counseling, outreach, education and direct financial assistance once a year.

You are not required to have an overdue bill or a disconnect notice to receive LIHEAP assistance. Emergency assistance is available for eligible households whose utility service has been disconnected and for homeowners whose furnace is not working or determined unsafe.

How to Access this Benefit: Call the Energy **Assistance hotline 877-411-9276**, or contact your local Community Action Agency to make an appointment to apply. You can find your nearest CAA at: www.illinois.gov/dceo/CommunityServices/HomeWeatherization/CommunityActionAgencies/Pages/default.aspx.

Benefit Access Program (formerly Illinois Circuit Breaker)

The Illinois Department of Aging Benefit Access Program assists seniors (age 65 and older) and persons with disabilities in obtaining free transit and license plate discounts. You must live in Illinois and meet age and income limits. Once approved, eligibility is good for two years under this program.

How to access the Benefit: Access Program
For more information and to apply online, visit www.illinois.gov/aging/BenefitsAccess/Pages/default.aspx, or call the Senior Help Line at 1-800-252-8966.

Phone Assistance Programs



Lifeline provides a discount on monthly telephone service (land line or wireless, not both) purchased from participating providers. **Safelink** provides a wireless phone and monthly

package of set minutes, texts, and data. You may qualify for these programs if you have an income below 135% FPL, or receive benefits through one of the following programs:

- Medicaid
- SNAP (Food stamps)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- National school lunch, free lunch program
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

There may be other requirements for these programs and you will need to provide proof that you receive assistance through one of the programs listed above. For more information about Lifeline, visit

www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/lifeline-affordable-telephone-service-income-eligible-subscribers.

Apply for **Lifeline** at www.lifelinesupport.org/l/.

To apply and learn more about **Safelink**, visit www.safelinkwireless.com/Enrollment/Safelink/en/NewPublic/index.html.