

# Help for Heating Costs Through HEAP

The Ohio Department of Development and the Area Agency on Aging District 7 (AAA7) want to remind Ohioans that assistance is available to help with their home energy bills. The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) helps Ohioans at or below 175 percent of the federal poverty guidelines pay their heating bills.



Applied directly to the customer's utility or bulk fuel bill, the benefit can help manage heating costs. Ohioans can visit [www.energyhelp.ohio.gov](http://www.energyhelp.ohio.gov) to apply online, download a copy of the application, or find contact information for a local Energy Assistance Provider (EAP). When applying, individuals need to have copies of the following documents:

- Most recent utility bills.
- A list of all household members (including birth dates and Social Security numbers).
- Proof of income for the past 30 days for all household members (12 months for certain income types).
- Proof of U.S. citizenship or legal residency for all household members.
- Proof of disability (if applicable).

HEAP benefits are applied to an individual's energy bill after January 1st. Applications for the HEAP program must be received by May 31, 2022.

For more information about HEAP, contact the Area Agency on Aging District 7 at 1-800-582-7277 or e-mail [info@aaa7.org](mailto:info@aaa7.org). To be connected to your local Energy Assistance provider, call (800) 282-0880 (hearing impaired clients may dial 711 for assistance) or visit [www.energyhelp.ohio.gov](http://www.energyhelp.ohio.gov).

Local partners in the AAA7's core 10-county district include:

Adams County – Adams County Senior Citizens Center  
Brown County – Adams-Brown Economic Opportunities, Inc.  
Gallia County – RSVP of the Ohio Valley  
Highland County – Highland County Community Action  
Jackson County – RSVP of the Ohio Valley  
Lawrence County – Ironton-Lawrence County Community Action  
Pike County – Community Action Committee of Pike County  
Ross County – Ross County Community Action  
Scioto County – Scioto County Community Action  
Vinton County – RSVP of the Ohio Valley

*Some types of fraud target older adults specifically or affect them more than others. Older adults may fall for certain scams because they are in the habit of answering calls from unknown callers, open junk mail rather than tossing it in the trash, or do not understand the privacy settings on social media. Answer True or False to the questions below.*

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1. *Isolation of the victim by the perpetrator is a strong indicator of undue influence. T F*
2. *Seniors may need home modifications to accommodate changing needs, so they are a perfect target for dishonest contractors. T F*
3. *When doing a home improvement, get written estimates from several contractors and the lowest bidder is the best choice. T F*
4. *Unscrupulous people manipulate older adults into giving their consent for financial transactions. T F*
5. *Before hiring a contractor, check reviews from the Better Business Bureau or other reputable online sources. T F*
6. *Seniors are more likely to become the victim of exploitation and, if cognitively impaired, can be twice as vulnerable. T F*
7. *A sign of financial abuse may be unexplained checks written to unusual recipients or large credit card transactions. T F*
8. *Among older adults, falls are the leading cause of injury deaths, and the most common cause of non-fatal injuries and hospital admissions for trauma. T F*
9. *Dishonest contractors often identify victims after natural disasters and then target the vulnerable older adult homeowner. T F*
10. *Older adults are prime targets for financial exploitation, both by people they know and trust and by strangers. T F*

**KEY:** 1. T 2. T 3. F 4. T 5. T 6. T 7. T 8. T 9. T 10. T