

Eligibility Guidelines for New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Payment Assistance for Gas and Electric (NJBPU PAGE) Program

About the Program

New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Payment Assistance for Gas and Electric (NJBPU PAGE) program provides energy (gas and electric) assistance grants to income qualified households experiencing a temporary financial crisis. Eligibility is based on household size and income. Households who have income between 0% - 60% of the State Median Income (SMI) guidelines can receive up to \$500 per utility per calendar year. Grants will be used for energy consumption only – not for deposits, reconnection fees, repairs, etc. All grant payments are issued directly to the utility company on the Account holder's behalf and no account holder will receive a credit balance.

Eligibility Guidelines

Households MUST:

- Have an active residential account with one of these utilities: Atlantic City Electric, Elizabethtown Gas, JCP&L, New Jersey Natural Gas, PSE&G, Rockland Electric and South Jersey Gas
- Reside at the service address listed on the utility bill
- Be experiencing a temporary financial crisis, such as a job loss or illness
- Be in arrears on their energy bill

Households MAY:

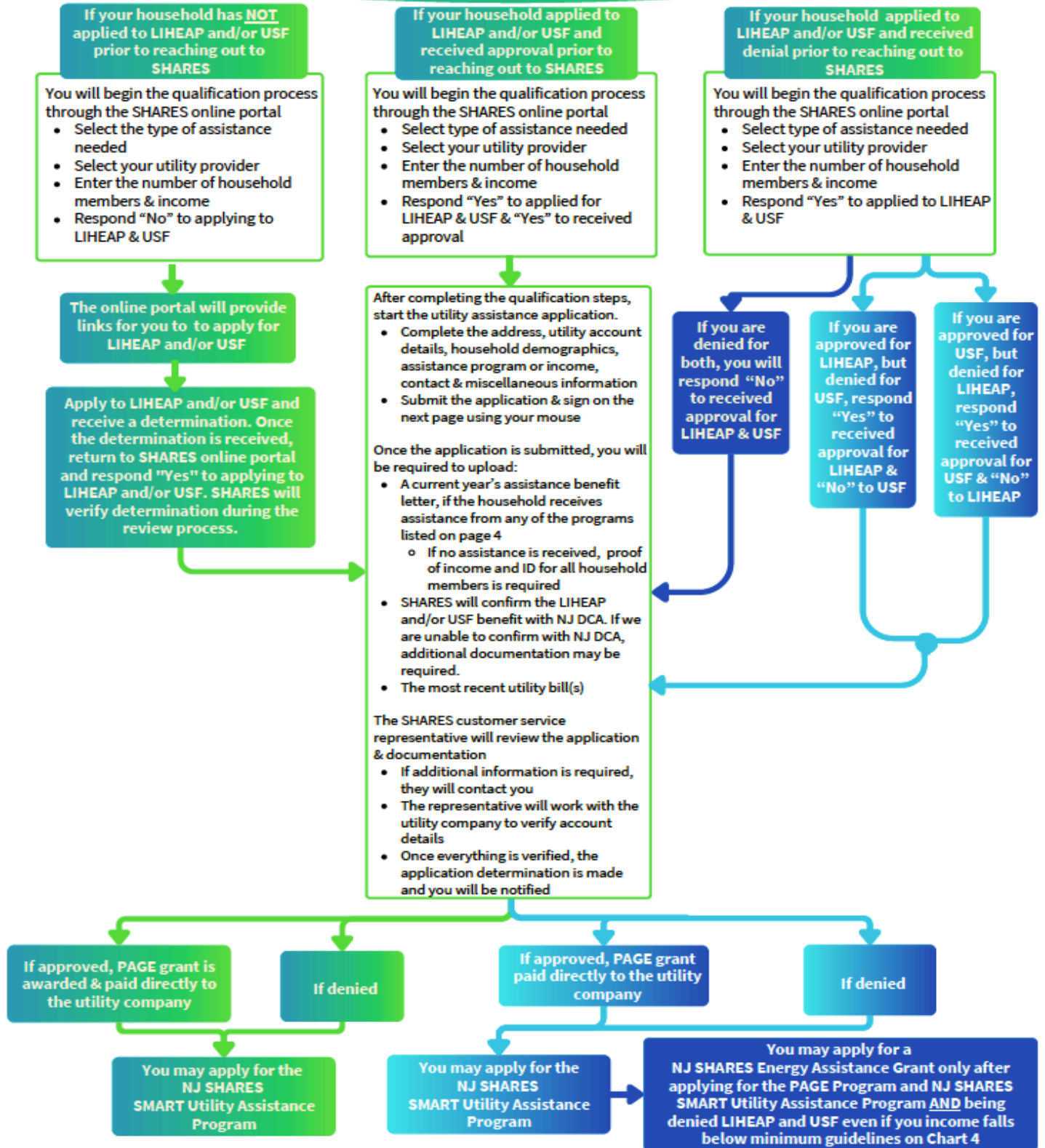
- Receive one grant of up to \$500 for electric once between January 1 and December 31 of a given year. **The actual amount awarded will depend on the arrearage on the bill at the time it is confirmed with the utility company. For example: If the utility company confirms a bill balance of \$300, the approval will be in the amount of \$300.**
- Receive one grant of up to \$500 for natural gas, once between January 1 and December 31 of a given year. **The actual amount awarded will depend on the arrearage on the bill at the time it is confirmed with the utility company. For example: If the utility company confirms a bill balance of \$157, the approval will be in the amount of \$157.**

Income Eligibility

- If the gross monthly household income is at or below the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and/or Universal Service Fund (USF) guidelines shown on the **income chart 1 on page 3**, the household must apply and receive a determination from those programs first.
- If the household receives LIHEAP and/or USF and is still in need of assistance, or if the household does not qualify for these programs, they may apply for the PAGE program. **See income chart 2 on page 3.**

Household income at or below 60% of the State Median Income

(Online application process flow. See income charts on next page)



Income Guidelines

If household income is at or below LIHEAP and/or USF Income Guidelines, SHARES will confirm the LIHEAP and/or USF benefit with NJ DCA. If we are unable to confirm with NJ DCA, additional documentation may be required.

Chart 1

LIHEAP/USF & NJBPU PAGE LI
Income Guidelines

HOUSEHOLD SIZE / GROSS MONTHLY INCOME

1 person / \$0 - \$4,273
2 people / \$0 - \$5,587
3 people / \$0 - \$6,902
4 people / \$0 - \$8,217
5 people / \$0 - \$9,532
6 people / \$0 - \$10,846
7 people / \$0 - \$11,093
8 people / \$0 - \$11,339
9 people / \$0 - \$11,586
10 people / \$0 - \$11,832
11 people / \$0 - \$12,079
12 people / \$0 - \$12,325

For households greater than 12 people,
add \$246 per additional person

Chart 2

NJBPU PAGE MI
Income Guidelines

HOUSEHOLD SIZE / GROSS MONTHLY INCOME

1 person / \$4,274 - \$7,121
2 people / \$5,588 - \$9,313
3 people / \$6,903 - \$11,504
4 people / \$8,218 - \$13,695
5 people / \$9,533 - \$15,886
6 people / \$10,847 - \$18,077
7 people / \$11,094 - \$18,488
8 people / \$11,340 - \$18,899
9 people / \$11,587 - \$19,310
10 people / \$11,833 - \$19,721
11 people / \$12,080 - \$20,132
12 people / \$12,326 - \$20,543

For households greater than 12 people,
add \$410 per additional person

Chart 3

NJ SHARES SMART Utility Assistance
Program Income Guidelines

HOUSEHOLD SIZE / GROSS MONTHLY INCOME

1 person / \$0 - \$7,121
2 people / \$0 - \$9,313
3 people / \$0 - \$11,504
4 people / \$0 - \$13,695
5 people / \$0 - \$15,886
6 people / \$0 - \$18,077
7 people / \$0 - \$18,488
8 people / \$0 - \$18,899
9 people / \$0 - \$19,310
10 people / \$0 - \$19,721
11 people / \$0 - \$20,132
12 people / \$0 - \$20,543

For households greater than 12 people,
add \$410 per additional person

Chart 4

NJ SHARES Energy Assistance Grant
Income Guidelines

HOUSEHOLD SIZE / GROSS MONTHLY INCOME

1 person / \$4,274 - \$7,121
2 people / \$5,588 - \$9,313
3 people / \$6,903 - \$11,504
4 people / \$8,218 - \$13,695
5 people / \$9,533 - \$15,886
6 people / \$10,847 - \$18,077
7 people / \$11,094 - \$18,488
8 people / \$11,340 - \$18,899
9 people / \$11,587 - \$19,310
10 people / \$11,833 - \$19,721
11 people / \$12,080 - \$20,132
12 people / \$12,326 - \$20,543

For households greater than 12 people,
add \$410 per additional person

NJBPU PAGE Program Policies and Procedures

Residence and Billing

- Account holder must be a New Jersey resident with an active residential account.
- Account holder and all household members must reside at the service address listed on the utility bill. A family member, spouse or significant other can apply for assistance provided they reside in the home.
 - If multiple names appear on the utility bill, and those people are either not disclosed on the application or unaccounted for as part of the household, we will require additional documentation.

Status with Energy Providers

The gas or electric account holder must be “at risk” of service termination, which can be any of the following:

- Account holder has received a written notice of arrears (can be a bill showing arrears balance)
- Account holder has a written termination or shut off notice
- Account holder’s service is shut off

Required Documentation

SHARES must receive these documents within 14 days of the application date to process an application.

Assistance Received (Categorical Eligibility)

If a household has received assistance within the current year from any of the programs below, they **must** provide the benefit/determination letter received instead of providing income and ID for the household if they choose to apply this way.

- Lifeline Utility Assistance Program
- Lifeline Communications Program
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Work First New Jersey – Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
- Veteran’s Pension
- Veteran’s Survivor’s Pension

If a household has received assistance within the current heating season from any of the programs below, they **may** provide the DCA application number (not required) received instead of providing income and ID for the household.

- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Universal Service Fund (USF)

If a household has received assistance from any of the programs below within the current calendar year, they **may** provide the SHARES application number (not required) received instead of providing income and ID for the household.

- Atlantic City Electric Customer Relief Fund
- Atlantic City Electric Smart Energy Network Meter Pan Grant
- AQUA Aid Grant
- FirstEnergy Repairs Assistance Program

- New Jersey American Water H2O Help to Others Program
- New Jersey American Water Universal Affordability Discount Program
- NJ SHARES Municipal Assistance Program
- NJ SHARES SMART Utility Assistance Program
- NJ SHARES Mortgage Assistance, Rent, and Taxes (NJ SMART) Program

Personal ID for the Applicant and All Household Members (Applicable only if no other assistance listed on the previous page has been received.)

Any unexpired government issued ID. ID must be provided for the applicant and all household members. If an adult (18 and older) household member's ID shows a different last name than applicant, additional proof of residency is required. If the address is listed on the ID provided and it does not match the service address, additional proof of residency is required.

Proof of Residency

If any documentation provided throughout the application process includes an address that does not match the service address, further proof of residency will be required. To prove residency, additional documentation dated within 30 days of the application date showing name and address must be provided.

Proof of Income (Applicable only if no other assistance listed on the previous page has been received.)

Proof of the last four consecutive weeks of income from the date of the application for all household members ages 18+. Any household members ages 18+ without income should be listed on the online application or Zero Income Affirmation form, if applying with paper. Proof of income includes:

Paystubs If paystubs cannot be produced: A letter signed and dated by the employer verifying paid in cash and the total gross monthly income.	Self-employed: Letter confirming the total gross income for the last 30 consecutive days.	Unemployment: Determination letter along with proof of receipt of last 30 days of unemployment benefit.
Rental Income: Current lease and rental payment receipt.	Social Security Income: Award letter for current year.	Pension Income: Most recent check or letter verifying lifetime receipt of benefits.
Workers' Compensation: Current bank statements showing identified direct deposits with recipient's name and address.	Alimony and/or Child Support: Proof of payment and frequency.	

Medical Equipment

If anyone in the household has a medical condition and relies on electric-powered medical equipment, please provide a note from the medical provider, or confirm this note is on file with the utility company.

Most Recent Energy Provider Bill

Provide the most recent gas and/or electric bill to include all pages. This information is verified with the designated utility provider.

Completed, Signed and Dated Application

- The application must be signed and dated.
- If a volunteer, family member, or social worker is completing the application for an account holder that is elderly or disabled and unable to complete the application on their own a Power of Attorney document or letter of authorization will be required.