

Help available for those needing help with energy bills

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Globalized economic pressures, crippled delivery systems, depleted energy supplies, escalating inflation and new COVID-19 challenges have catalyzed an increasing number of Connecticut residents to seek energy assistance this year.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration recently projected 54% price increases for propane, 30% for natural gas, 43% for heating oil and 6% for electric heat. U.S. Census Bureau surveys indicate more than 21% of Connecticut residents were unable to meet their energy costs last year.

To assist the state's low-income residents, the Connecticut Association for Community Action's (CAFCA) nine-agency network recently expanded programs to support a wider range of income levels. This includes the newly revamped Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) administered by the Department of Social Services and CAFCA.

CEAP resources recently have been simplified and streamlined to speed services to households battling escalating energy costs. All program applicants also will receive comprehensive client assessments that align qualified enrollees with other programs, services and referrals that address a variety of household challenges.

New Opportunities Inc. encourages anyone experiencing rising fuel costs in Greater Waterbury, Meriden and Torrington to visit us, or call 203-756-8151 or 203-235-0278, or email energy@newoppinc.org. Those experiencing household shortfalls can contact www.cafca.org for assistance.

Whether it's fixed-income senior citizens, the working poor or single-parent families, Connecticut's Community Action Agency Network has helped low-income residents construct lives of independent dignity since 1964.

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