

CORTLAND COUNTY PRESS RELEASE

Contact Information:

Cortland County Public Information Officer
Savannah Hempstead
607.753.5048
shempstead@cortlandcountyny.gov



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cortland County Department of Social Services Announces Opening of 2026–2027 Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Season

CORTLAND, NY – The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is a federally funded energy assistance program that helps with heating bills and, in some years, with summer cooling benefits, furnace repairs and furnace maintenance.

Income eligible Cortland County residents can apply to receive assistance paying their heating bills this winter beginning November 2nd. **You do NOT need to come into the Department of Social Services (DSS) office at the County Office Building to file an application.**

A regular HEAP application can be completed easily online at www.mybenefits.ny.gov or by calling (607)428-5400 to have an application mailed.

You may Qualify for a Regular HEAP (opens November 2, 2026) benefit if:

- A member of your household is a US Citizen or Qualified Non-Citizen;
- Your household's gross monthly income is at or below the current income guidelines for your household size as posted at <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/>;
- You received Supplements Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits;
- You receive federally funded Temporary Assistance (TA), also known as Public Assistance (PA); or
- You receive a Code A Supplemental Security Income (SSI Living Alone)

HEAP Emergencies (opens January 4, 2027)

Those eligible for regular HEAP with a fuel emergency such as a power shutoff notice or less than ¼ tank of fuel can apply for Emergency HEAP by calling (607)428-5400. Calls are returned within 24 hours. For urgent emergencies, individuals should come to the DSS office at 60 Central Ave. Cortland, NY.

Individuals over the Age of 60

Individuals who are age 60 or over may contact the Cortland County Area Agency on Aging at (607)753-5060 to receive an application and apply by mail at 60 Central Ave. Cortland, NY 13045. For detailed information on all HEAP programs, please visit our website at <https://www.cortlandcountyny.gov/687/Home-Energy-Assistance-Program-HEAP>

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