



WHCA's Heating Assistance Programs May Help You

Washington Hancock Community Agency's Community Services Division administers the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) that helps people with low incomes pay their home energy bills. Since 2006, the cost of heating a home has increased, but LIHEAP benefits have not kept pace. In response, WHCA started a community fund to help people stay warm, known as The Heating and Warmth fund, or THAW.

THAW helps people with low incomes who are having difficulty paying home energy bills. Funds raised from the community assist people who may be just outside the LIHEAP program eligibility requirements or who have exhausted all other options to heat their homes. People recently out of work, due to plant closures and layoffs, do not qualify for home energy assistance, yet often need help paying their fuel bills. The THAW Fund helps meet these gaps left by other funding sources. THAW can also provide funding for furnace repairs or replacements, which other heating assistance funds do not cover.

WHCA works with its many partners to help those in crisis. Each year state agencies, municipalities, non-profit organizations, and churches respond to calls from families who are running out of fuel or are facing service disconnection.

WHCA's Community Services staff is happy to assist clients who may need heating assistance. WHCA has offices in Ellsworth at 248 Bucksport Road and in Milbridge at 2 Maple Street.

To apply for heating assistance, call WHCA at 664-2424 or 546-7544.

