

BACK TO BUSINESS:

Program offers grants to small businesses

At the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Central Hudson launched the Back to Business program and committed up to \$1 million to help small businesses who were looking to re-open or continue operations by paying down new working capital loans taken with participating local banks. To date, this program has assisted 78 small businesses with grants totaling nearly \$454,000, enabling the retention of more than 540 jobs in our region.

Small business owners can still apply for grants for up to \$10,000 through this program. To qualify, the applicant must be a Central Hudson commercial customer with up to 20 employees. Eligible businesses must apply for and receive a working-capital loan from a designated banking partner and must be currently operational or planning to reopen once permitted to do so.

Log on to Central Hudson's Facebook page to view videos on how the Back to Business program has helped some of our local businesses. For more information on the program, visit www.CentralHudson.com/Business-Customers/Back-to-Business-Funding-Program.

EnergyCentral

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HOME HEATING ASSISTANCE GRANTS NOW AVAILABLE

Those who qualify also receive a monthly bill credit

Qualified customers can now apply for Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) grants, a federally funded program that provides regular and emergency assistance to help pay heating and utility bills. In addition to a HEAP benefit, customers who qualify will also be issued a monthly credit on their Central Hudson bill for a maximum of 12 months based on service type and the amount of the HEAP benefit.

"We are pleased to offer this

additional assistance to families who may be struggling, especially as we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic," said Anthony Campagiorni, Vice President of Customer Services and Gas Operations. "We encourage all customers who are income eligible to apply."

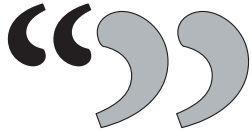
Families who qualify for the grants and use electricity or natural gas as their primary heating source could receive \$350 or more off their utility bill depending on family income and household size guidelines. Households receiving a HEAP benefit for non-utility heating fuels such as oil, propane, wood/wood pellets, kerosene, coal or corn are

SEE **HEAP** ON BACK PAGE

HEAP: Payment assistance offered for heating, utility bills

also eligible for a monthly credit on their electric or non-heating gas bill.

As an example: A Central Hudson customer who qualifies for a Tier 1 HEAP grant and uses natural gas for heating is eligible for bill credits of up to \$49 per month; while a Tier 1 customer who has electric heating can receive a credit of up to \$22 each month. Customers who qualify for higher tiers could be eligible for larger bill credits.



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ANTHONY CAMPAGIORNI
VICE PRESIDENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES
AND GAS OPERATIONS

A Tier 1 customer who uses non-utility heating fuels could receive up to \$22 per month on their electric bill through these credits. These customers must email their 2020-2021 Notice of Decision letter or a statement from their fuel supplier showing HEAP payment to careunit@cenhud.com to be enrolled and receive bill credits.

Regular HEAP grants for the fall and upcoming winter are now available through Mar. 15, 2021, or until funding is exhausted. Emergency HEAP grants will be available between Jan. 4, 2021, and Mar. 15, 2021. These benefits are designed



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to meet an eligible household's immediate energy needs. The Heating Equipment Repair or Replacement (HERR) program is also available to assist customers who have primary heating equipment that is either inoperable or unsafe. HERR grants are currently available and will remain so through Sept. 30, 2021.

To apply for HEAP and HERR benefits, eligible residents may contact their local DSS office, call (800) 342-3009, or visit www.mybenefits.ny.gov. Individuals who are 60 and older and do not receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits may contact their local Office for the Aging to learn of the eligibility requirements by calling (800) 342-9871 or by visiting www.aging.ny.gov.

Central Hudson also offers other payment assistance programs. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Central Hudson

has suspended service terminations and is actively reaching out to customers who are experiencing financial challenges to determine if they are eligible for further assistance. In order to provide necessary documentation for certain assistance programs, some Central Hudson customers are being proactively provided with statements showing a past due balance or a termination notice. These statements may be necessary for a customer to qualify for an emergency HEAP benefit or other charitable resources like Central Hudson's Good Neighbor Fund.

For more information on HEAP eligibility requirements and benefits, visit www.CentralHudson.com/HEAP or <http://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/program.asp>; and for more on all of Central Hudson's assistance and billing programs, visit www.CentralHudson.com, and click on "My Account." ✨

BACK TO BUSINESS FUNDING PROGRAM

For more information on the program, visit www.CentralHudson.com/Business-Customers/Back-to-Business-Funding-Program.

