

HELP PREVENT A WINTER HEATING CRISIS IN MAINE



MeCAP, as a Network, Supports **all** Maine Communities



What's Happening

The ongoing federal government shutdown has paused funding for the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) and delayed the start of the Energy Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP) –two lifeline programs that help tens of thousands of Mainers heat their homes each winter.

- Maine Housing has informed our network of their inability to continue paying our administrative costs from their own funds as of **November 30**, which will effectively pause the program in many areas of the state.
- No payments can be issued for approved HEAP or ECIP benefits until the federal government reopens and releases funds — a process that will take at least 30 days once authorized.

What This Means for Mainers

Thousands of Maine families could be left without safe heating options during the coldest months of the year.

- Client appointments and application processing are continuing, but no payments can be made until funds are received.
- Families may turn to unsafe heating methods – such as space heaters, kitchen ovens, or unvented wood stoves – increasing the risk of fires, carbon monoxide poisoning, and serious injury.

What Community Partners Can Do

Your support and advocacy are critical. Here's how you can help:

- Contact your legislators and the Governor's Office – Urge them to act swiftly to provide temporary state funding or call a special legislative session to protect vulnerable Mainers.
- Reach out to Maine's congressional delegation – Encourage immediate action to restore federal funding.
- Spread the word – Share accurate information so Mainers know their HEAP applications are safe and being processed.
- Refer those in crisis to 211 Maine – Trained call specialists can help connect callers with local emergency or community resources.

THE NEED

38,114

Maine Households supported by HEAP in PY25

7,003

Maine households facing imminent fuel or heating loss - ECIP eligible - in PY25



OUR IMPACT

59,460

The Total Number of Individuals Who Received Utility Payment Support in FY24 (HEAP, and Emergency Payments)

Why It Matters

“Every Mainer deserves to be warm, fed, housed, and supported with dignity.”

— Maine Community Action Partnership

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