

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING

2015 HOME ENERGY, HOUSING & EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE SERVICES GUIDE

(services are dependent on availability of funding)

Heating and/or Electrical Assistance Programs

Heating Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) – Heating assistance for income eligible households. Includes a regular benefit, emergency fuel assistance, and utility shutoffs. Also furnace repair/replacements for homeowners. November through March (dates are subject to change each year)
Contact Social Services HEAP Unit: (315) 379-2303

JOE-4-OIL - Citizens Energy (*in partnership w/CITGO*), through their Oil Heat Program provides income eligible families a one-time delivery of 100 gallons of home heating oil. Please note they experience high volume of calls, are open for a limited time in the winter therefore may be difficult to reach.

Call Center hours are Mon.-Fri., 9-5PM; PH:–1-877-JOE-4-OIL (1-877-563-4645)

Care and Share – Assistance with energy related problems: hot water heater repair or replacement, furnace repair, electric shut off, heat shut off. To be eligible must be a National Grid customer. **Contact: St. Lawrence County Community Development Program (CDP) Neighborhood Center nearest you: Canton: 386-3541; Colton/Pierrepont/Parishville: 244-0069; Gouverneur: 287-3370; Massena: 764-0050; Ogdensburg: 393-5561; Potsdam: 265-3920**

Weatherization Program – Provides energy related repairs (*which lower heating and electrical bills*) for HEAP eligible homeowners, if home is a mobile home you must have legal life lease. This is not an emergency program.

Contact St. Lawrence County Community Development Program (CDP) (315) 386-1102.

EmPower NY(*NYSERDA Program*) – Low income homeowner/renters National Grid Customers may apply. Provides cost-effective energy efficiency measures, mostly lighting, refrigerator replacements, insulation and air sealing, which will lower the cost of energy for qualified customers. Services delivered by local contractors and appliance vendors.

Contact EmPower NY at 1-800-263-0960...or.....Office for the Aging (if age 60+) at (315) 386-4730.

Assisted Home Performance (*NYSERDA Program*) - Reduces energy costs of low- and moderate-income National Grid Customers *by* providing affordable energy efficiency improvements. The program will cover up to 50% of the costs associated with the energy-efficiency improvements, up to a maximum of \$5,000 per household.

Contact Energy Finance Solutions 1-800-361-5663

Emergency Assistance

Catholic Charities - Assistance with payment of utility bills to prevent disconnect, assistance with prescriptions, infant clothing and diapers.

Contact: (315) 393-2660

St. Lawrence County Community Development Program (CDP) –

FEMA funds for one time, last resort, assistance for rent, a mortgage payment to prevent foreclosure, utilities and food. Must be an emergency or facing an eviction.

Neighborhood Centers: Canton 386-3541; Colton/Pierrepont/Parishville: 244-0069; Gouverneur: 287-3370; Massena: 764-0050; Ogdensburg: 393-5561; Potsdam: 265-3920. Food pantry and thrift shops at select locations.

Ministry in the North Country (MINC) - MINC provides emergency assistance to low to moderate income households on a case-by-case basis. Heating assistance, electric shut off assistance, assistance with prescriptions and additional emergency assistance deemed necessary case by case. Also has a private rural rehabilitation program during the summer months. In St. Lawrence County and Jefferson County.

Contact Rachel Roberts: (315) 681-0261

Salvation Army - Food pantry, rent assistance, utility/fuel assistance, prescription assistance, disaster services, counseling, budgeting classes, youth and after school programs, adult programs and thrift store.

Contact: Ogdensburg: (315) 393-3351, Massena (315) 769-5154, or Potsdam (315) 265-3920

Canton Church & Community Worker Program - Emergency food assistance and thrift shop. School supplies, holiday giving tree gifts and food program are also available for low-income individuals and families. Assistance for housing dependent on the availability of funds. No Christmas meal. Referrals to other assistance agencies.

Servicing Canton, Hermon, Clare, DeKalb, Russell and Rensselaer Falls. Contact: (315) 386-3534.

Helping Hands of Potsdam, Inc. - Food pantry, home goods and furniture available and provides assistance with heating fuel, gasoline, utilities, and prescriptions when possible. Lunch is served on-site (5868 State Route 56, Potsdam, NY) Monday through Thursday @ 12:00 noon.

Serving all of St. Lawrence County regarding home goods and furniture. All other services available to all of Eastern St. Lawrence County with the exception of the Massena Area.

Contact: (315) 268-0633

St. Mary's Cathedral / St. Vincent de Paul Society - Limited assistance with non-narcotic prescriptions, gas for out of town doctor appointments, and utilities (*gas, electric, fuel oil, propane, and wood*).

Serving Ogdensburg, Heuvelton, Lisbon, Morristown. Contact: (315) 393-3930

Emergency Assistance (continued)

St. Vincent de Paul Massena – Office and food pantry serving Massena, Louisville, Chase Mills, and Rooseveltown residents Mon-Fri 10-3:00. The third Saturday of every month (9-10:30 am) general food pantry for all St. Lawrence County residents. (*dependent on food availability, call ahead*). Depending on funding, may help with last resort assistance with rent and utility emergencies, gas for transportation to medical appointments and prescription assistance in Massena, Louisville, Chase Mills, Rooseveltown, Norfolk, Raymondville and Tri-town area. Thrift store is open to the public Monday through Friday 10:00-3:45. **Contact: (315) 769-1200**

St. Vincent de Paul Notre Dame - Limited assistance for emergencies only for Ogdensburg and surrounding communities.
Contact: (315) 393-5050

Massena Independent Living Center - Assisting disabled towards independence. Services available: advocacy, benefits advisement, homeless prevention program, architectural assessments for handicap accessibility, peer counseling, independent living skills training, vocational assistance, etc.. Loan closet for medical assistance (*wheelchairs, crutches*)
Contact: (315) 764-9442

TREC-Two Rivers Ecumenical Council- Last resort assistance to low to moderate income families ineligible for other services. Serving Parishville, Colton, S. Colton, Pierrepont and possibly Piercefield. Board approved assistance with heat, cooking gas, minimal rent, electric, car fuel for medical appointments, and possibly emergency home repairs.
Contact: (315) 265-4032 or (315) 353-2331

Local Churches - Each Church has different levels of assistance for residents of their community.
Contact: check your local listings

Department Of Social Services - Many programs available to those who qualify, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (*SNAP*) (*formerly the Food Stamp program*).
Contact: (315) 379-2111

Property Tax Relief Programs - Contact local Tax Assessor for the following programs

STAR- The New York State School Tax Relief Program (STAR) provides for a partial property tax exemption from school taxes for all New Yorkers who own and live in their homes. The **Enhanced STAR exemption** is available for **eligible property owners (name on deed) who are 65 and older**. This benefit must be applied for with the local assessor by March 1st (or April 1st for the City of Ogdensburg) to receive the exemption for the school tax that fall.

Partial Tax Exemption for Real Property of Senior Citizens-Individuals generally must be 65 years of age or older and meet certain income limitations and other requirements. The application for the Older Adult Exemption also will serve as an application for the Enhanced STAR. **Localities and school districts have the option whether or not to offer this exemption.**

Veterans Property Tax Exemption- Veterans can receive a partial property tax exemption for those homeowners meeting qualifying veteran's criteria.

Contact your local tax assessor or St. Lawrence County Veterans Dept. (315) 386-4754

Real Property Tax Exemption for Persons with Disabilities and Limited

Resources: Localities have the option of giving exemptions to persons with disabilities based on income with a "sliding scale" option.

Home Repairs and Modifications

St. Lawrence County Community Development Program – Grant funded programs. Eligibility and services vary by program and funding. **Contact: (315) 386-1102**

North Country Affordable Housing - Mobile Home Replacement Program and homeowner counseling, new home construction program, and first home buyers club.

Contact: 1-866-653-8724 or (315) 785-8684 Website: www.northcountryaffordablehousing.com

North Country Housing Council - Loans, deferred loans, and counseling for home rehabilitation, energy efficiency, and purchase in **selected** areas. Income and eligibility requirements. **Contact: (315) 386-8576**

USDA Rural Economic Development - Loans and grants to assist low-income households for home repairs, improvements, or to remove health and safety hazards. **Contact: (315) 386-2401 ext. 4**

Community Development Program of Gouverneur: Within village limits only. Home repair assistance to low income homeowners and landlords. **Contact: (315) 287-1720 ext. 7**

Massena Rehabilitation – Home repair assistance for those who live within the **village** limits. Funding priority to the very low income, fixed income population with serious code violations and health and safety hazards. Focus is on the elderly, frail and disabled.

Contact: (315) 769-6803

Potsdam Planning and Development Office - Home repair assistance for those who live within the **village and town** limits. Funding priority to the very low income, fixed income population with serious code violations and health and safety hazards. Focus is on the elderly, frail and disabled.

Contact: (315) 265-3045

Call your Town Clerk for other local programs