

Grant Programs Currently Accepting Applications:

Additional \$16.6 Million to Help Wisconsin Families Keep Heat on this Winter

Gov. Tony Evers recently announced [an additional \\$16.6 million investment](#) to help Wisconsin families keep their energy and heat on throughout the fall and winter months. This investment will be managed by the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) and includes \$13.6 million for the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) for heating assistance and \$3 million for the Keep Wisconsin Warm/Cool Fund for crisis energy assistance.

Energy assistance benefits are available for individuals and households through WHEAP from Oct. 1, 2022, until May 15, 2023. This heating season, the average heating benefit is expected to be \$372 and the average electric benefit is expected to be \$210. Residents can apply for energy assistance through county social and human service offices, Tribal governments, and private non-profit agencies, online at <https://energybenefit.wi.gov>, or by phone at 1-800-506-5596. Eligibility is based on household income, household size, and the home's energy costs.



Wisconsin Help for Homeowners Deadline Extended to December 30

[The Wisconsin Help for Homeowners program](#) has so far distributed over \$18.7 million to help more than 2,900 Wisconsin homeowners stay in their homes, catch up on bills, and avoid foreclosure. **The application window for this program has been extended until December 30, 2022, or until program funds are expended.**



The program is open to individuals and families who live in Wisconsin with overdue housing-related bills, both with and without a mortgage, who meet income and other eligibility requirements, and have experienced a qualified economic hardship since January 21, 2020.

Applications and additional information is available at: <https://homeownerhelp.wi.gov>.

Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance Program Has Helped 48,000 Households - Assistance Is Still Available

Gov. Tony Evers recently announced that more than 48,000 households have received assistance from the [Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance](#) (WERA) program, surpassing \$200 million in rent and utility payments statewide. The federally funded WERA program provides up to 18 months of financial assistance for current and overdue payments of rent and utilities, including water, electricity, gas and internet, and has been an instrumental tool in helping families maintain housing despite financial hardships related to the coronavirus pandemic.

Help is still available for eligible households through WISCAP agencies and Energy Services. The program is funded by the Federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program and administered by the Wisconsin Department of Administration.

Additional information about the Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance Program is available here: <https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/WERA.aspx>.



Gov. Evers Announces Additional \$25 Million Investment into Successful Main Street Bounceback Program, Grants Have Already Supported Over 6,600 Businesses & Nonprofits



Gov. Tony Evers recently announced that [an additional \\$25 million](#) will be invested into the Main Street Bounceback Grant Program, bringing the governor's total investment into the program to \$100 million.

Gov. Evers' Main Street Bounceback program, which provides \$10,000 to recipients to help them move or expand into vacant commercial spaces, has now supported more than 6,600 small businesses and nonprofits in communities in all 72 counties in Wisconsin. **The deadline to apply for a Main Street Bounceback Grant has been extended to December 31, 2022.** Grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until all the funds are disbursed.

Grant funds are available as part of the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) and distributed by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) [regional partners](#). Businesses must apply through the partner organization for the region in which they are located. The program is open to new or existing businesses opening a new location or expanding operations in a vacant commercial property where the lease commences, or sales contract closes, on or after January 1, 2021 and on or before December 31, 2022.

Additional information about the Main Street Bounce Back Grants is available here: <https://wedc.org/programs-and-resources/mainstreet-bounceback-grants/>.

DNR Now Accepting Applications For ARPA Well Compensation And Well Abandonment Grant Programs

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is [now accepting applications](#) for the new American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Well Compensation and Well Abandonment Grant Programs. The DNR will accept applications until funding runs out.

The new programs will provide \$10 million in financial assistance to well owners to address contamination in their wells by awarding grants for the replacement, reconstruction, treatment or abandonment of their well. The eligibility criteria for both programs have been expanded beyond the previous Well Compensation Grant Program, and many previously ineligible individuals will now be eligible to apply. Well owners interested in applying should first determine if they are eligible by completing the [Well Compensation Grant Preliminary Eligibility questionnaire](#). Well owners who are eligible for a Well Compensation Grant can follow the steps to apply on the [Well Compensation Grant Program webpage](#).

Financial assistance is also available from the American Rescue Plan Act Well Abandonment Grant Program to properly fill and seal abandoned or unused private or non-community wells. Applicants must meet the income limit of \$100,000 to apply. Eligibility can be determined by completing the [Well Abandonment Grant Preliminary Eligibility questionnaire](#). Well owners who are eligible for a Well Abandonment Grant can follow the steps to apply on the [Well Abandonment Grant Program webpage](#).