



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

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## Staying Warm This Winter

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Leaves changing colors, cooler temperatures and shorter days—all signs that winter is just around the corner. When the weather turns colder, it leaves many in the troubling position of deciding to pay for heat or pay for other necessities—like food or medication. It is critical for all of us here in New York State to let our family, friends and neighbors know there is help.

Applications for the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) will be accepted beginning November 13th. It is recommended that people fill out an application as soon as they can

once November 13th comes around. This year, depending on income, household size and the type of heating source you use, eligible applicants can receive a one-time benefit of up to \$675, plus potential add-on benefits. However, it is critical that you apply as soon as possible as funding through this program is only available until it runs out.

To learn more about HEAP, program changes for this winter and to fill out an application, you can visit [www.myBenefits.ny.gov](http://www.myBenefits.ny.gov) or obtain an application at your local Department of Social Services office (listed below):

- *Jefferson County Department of Social Services*

*250 Arsenal Street, Watertown, NY, (315) 785-3000*

- *Oswego County Department of Social Services*

*100 Spring Street, Mexico, NY, (315) 963-5031*

- *St. Lawrence County Department of Social Services*

*6 Judson Street, Canton, NY, (315) 379-2303*

In addition to applying for the one-time benefit, households can also apply for an emergency benefit—beginning on Wednesday, January 2, 2019—if they are in danger of having their heat turned off, or they are running out of fuel. Again, applications are accepted starting on November 13th.

This winter join me in ensuring our seniors, family, friends and neighbors by sharing this lifesaving information and helping them apply for this key program helping people stay warm as the temperatures drops.