

## WHAT IS GAP?

GAP is the Gas Affordability Program. It is **only available to recipients of LIHEAP benefits**. GAP is a state-mandated program that you can receive through your natural gas company, and **it can provide two services:**

**Affordability** - assistance affording service, based on percentage of household income spent on heating. Caps your natural gas bill to less than 6% of your total household income.

**Arrears Forgiveness** - help resolving late or incomplete bills.

*“Bringing justice to sustainability.”*



The **Center for Earth, Energy, and Democracy** is a non-profit organization that works on energy and environmental justice.

[www.ceed.org](http://www.ceed.org)

# GAP

**Gas Affordability  
Program**



## Am I eligible for GAP?

You are eligible if you receive assistance from the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

## How do I get GAP benefits?

Apply as soon as you have received LIHEAP because funding is available on a first-come-first-serve basis. The GAP application is separate from the LIHEAP application.

## How to Apply:

Most natural gas companies in Minnesota do not accept applications directly, so you must apply another way.

For *CenterPoint Energy, Xcel Energy, and Greater Minnesota Gas (GMG)* the GAP application is available from the Energy Cents Coalition:  
651-774-9010 (toll-free 888-774-9070)

- <http://energycents.org/data/documents/CPE-GAP-Application-April-2016.pdf> (CenterPoint)
- <http://energycents.org/data/documents/PO-GAP-application-January-2015.pdf> (Xcel)
- <http://energycents.org/data/documents/GMG-2016-GAP-Application.pdf> (GMG)

## For Minnesota Energy Resources (MER)

and *Great Plains Natural Gas (GPN)* the GAP application is available from the Salvation Army: 1-888-733-8033

- [http://www.minnesotaeenergyresource.s.com/home/pdf/gas\\_affordability\\_app\\_lication.pdf](http://www.minnesotaeenergyresource.s.com/home/pdf/gas_affordability_app_lication.pdf) (for MER)
- [https://www.gpn.com/docs/default-source/incentive-programs/2016-gas-affordability-program-\(gap\).pdf?sfvrsn=6](https://www.gpn.com/docs/default-source/incentive-programs/2016-gas-affordability-program-(gap).pdf?sfvrsn=6) (for GPN)

For more provider-specific information visit <http://liheap.org/states/mn/> and scroll down to your provider.

- Print and complete your application. Be sure to complete it fully, including your account number, or else the form will not get processed.
- Mail or fax your completed application to the address at the bottom of the form.

- **If you get funding, reapply the next year if necessary.** Some utilities require you to reapply every year (e.g. Xcel Energy and Great Plains Natural Gas) while others do not (e.g., Minnesota Energy Resources).

## How do I keep my benefits once I receive them?

- Pay energy bills on time (if you do not, you may lose your assistance and may not be allowed to apply again until the following year).

## What if my application is denied?

If you receive LIHEAP assistance and are denied by GAP, apply again next year. GAP cannot pay to fund everyone who is eligible. Remember that you cannot get GAP without having received LIHEAP for that year.

## If I am eligible for GAP and LIHEAP, what other programs might be relevant to me?

You are eligible for the Cold Weather Rule (CWR) and Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP).

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Minnesota Department of Commerce, Energy Information Center, phone number: 651-539-1886
- Office of Community Services, "LIHEAP Frequently Asked Questions for Customers," U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/consumer-frequently-asked-questions#Q10>
- "LIHEAP: Fighting Poverty in Minnesota," <http://liheap.org/states/mn/>
- Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, local phone number 651-296-0406 and toll free phone number 1-800-657-3782