



## **Neighbor For Neighbor Heat Fund & HEAP Programs Provide Western New York Families Help with their Heating Bills**

(January 29, 2010) Williamsville, N.Y.: National Fuel today reminds its customers that getting help with this year's heating bills has never been easier. Changes to the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) make more families than ever before eligible for as much as \$500 in initial assistance. For those in a heating emergency situation, even more help is available. The Utility is also announcing that the Neighbor For Neighbor Heat Fund is open and accepting applications for assistance to qualifying western New Yorkers to receive a one-time grant of up to \$400.

The **Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)** has two major components: Regular HEAP grants and Emergency HEAP grants. Customers can receive a Regular HEAP grant by meeting the household income eligibility requirements, whether or not they pay separately for their heat.

Emergency HEAP grants provide for additional assistance in order to avert a heat-related emergency. Additional funding may be available for furnace repair or replacement. Emergency HEAP payments of either \$300 or \$350 are available to prevent termination of heating service, or to restore service that was shut off. In order to qualify, a customer's heat must be shut off, or the customer must have a shut-off notice, **and** the customer cannot have the resources available to pay the shut-off amount indicated.

Applying for HEAP has never been easier. Customers can apply for HEAP through their county Department of Social Services (DSS) and Department of Senior Services/Office for the Aging. Also, in Erie County, a number of satellite locations are available where customers can apply for a HEAP grant. Anyone who received a Regular grant last year and still lives in the same county can apply by mail for a Regular grant from this year's program. Customers can also apply by mail if they are 60 or over, and the head of the household, or they receive Social Security disability benefits. Residents of Allegany or Steuben counties, may be eligible to file online. Customers can apply for Emergency Benefits by telephone if they've already been approved for the Regular HEAP grant.

For more information on the HEAP program and how to apply, visit [www.HEAPhelps.com](http://www.HEAPhelps.com) or call 1-877-443-2743. See the chart below for this year's income eligibility guidelines.

<b>Household Size</b>	<b>2009-2010 Maximum Monthly Income for Regular &amp; Emergency Benefit</b>	<b>2009-2010 Maximum Annual Income for Regular &amp; Emergency Benefit</b>
1	0 - \$2,030	0 - \$24,355
2	0 - \$2,654	0 - \$31,849
3	0 - \$3,279	0 - \$39,343
4	0 - \$3,903	0 - \$46,837
5	0 - \$4,528	0 - \$54,330
6	0 - \$5,152	0 - \$61,824



Household Size	2009-2010 Maximum Monthly Income for Regular & Emergency Benefit	2009-2010 Maximum Annual Income for Regular & Emergency Benefit
7	0 - \$5,269	0 - \$63,229
8	0 - \$5,386	0 - \$64,635
9	0 - \$5,503	0 - \$66,040
10	0 - \$5,620	0 - \$67,445
11	0 - \$6,029	0 - \$72,345
12	0 - \$6,496	0 - \$77,955
13	0 - \$6,964	0 - \$83,565
14	0 - \$7,431	0 - \$89,175
15	0 - \$7,899	0 - \$94,785
Each additional person	+ \$468	+ \$5,616

**The Neighbor For Neighbor Heat Fund**, a first-come, first-served home-heating assistance grant program, is now open to provide assistance to elderly and disabled western New Yorkers to pay for energy-related expenses. This fund was established by National Fuel in 1983 and has offered grants totaling more than \$4.3 million to more than 16,000 persons.

In order to qualify for a grant from the Neighbor For Neighbor Heat Fund, an applicant must:

- Be 60 years old or older; OR
- Be handicapped or have a disability that reduces the household's income (also applies if a member of their household is handicapped or has a disability that reduces the household's income); OR
- Have a certified medical emergency.

Applicants must have made at least six payments to their heating bill within a 12-month period from the date of application, and monthly income and expenses will need to be verified. Applicants must reside in National Fuel's service territory, however, they are not required to be a National Fuel customer.

Grant applications for the Neighbor For Neighbor Heat Fund are processed by The Salvation Army, the Chautauqua County Office For the Aging and Catholic Charities. Eligible families or individuals should contact one of these organizations to find the nearest agency and determine the necessary documentation to bring to the application interview:

- **The Salvation Army:** (716) 883-9800, extension 230
- **The Chautauqua County Office For the Aging:** (716) 753-4471
- **Catholic Charities:** (716) 856-4494 (if under the age of 60), (716) 896-6388 (if over the age of 60)

The Neighbor For Neighbor Heat Fund is funded with generous contributions from National Fuel customers and employees, private entities and National Fuel's shareholders.



National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation comprises the Utility segment of National Fuel Gas Company, a diversified energy holding company that is engaged in a number of natural gas-related activities. The Utility provides natural gas service to approximately 500,000 customers in western New York. Additional information about National Fuel and its customer services is available at [www.NationalFuelGas.com](http://www.NationalFuelGas.com) or by calling **1-800-365-3234**.