

# ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS APPLICATION JULY 2023 – MAY 2024

## Terms of Agreement

- I agree**
- To pay my Percentage of Income Payment Plan Plus (PIPP) amount for my electric and/or natural gas service every month.
  - To go to my local energy assistance provider or to [energyhelp.ohio.gov](http://energyhelp.ohio.gov) to reapply at least once a year with updated household information, and income documentation in order to remain eligible.
  - To contact my local energy assistance provider or go online to [energyhelp.ohio.gov](http://energyhelp.ohio.gov) to report any changes to my total household income or number of household members, within 30 days of the change.
  - To accept any energy efficiency programs offered by Development or its designated providers, if eligible.
  - To allow my utility companies to release my name, address, telephone number, household member information, amount of my utility usage, and total past due amount to Development and agencies performing weatherization services and/or provide other energy related services.
  - To allow Development to release my name, address, telephone number, household member information, and current status to the utility companies, and other energy assistance providers.
  - To allow Development to share my usage and demographic data with organizations contracted by Development to evaluate the programs administered by Development.
- I understand**
- I will not be re-verified if I owe any PIPP payments. I must make up these payments by the next billing cycle, or the due date given to me by my utility companies.
  - If I miss three or more consecutive payments, I will receive a notice on my bill and have one billing cycle after the notice to make up payments or be dropped from PIPP.
  - If I do not re-verify my income at least once every 12 months, I will be dropped from PIPP.
  - If I do not make up missed PIPP payments by my stated anniversary date, I will be dropped from PIPP (I understand the PIPP verification and anniversary dates are printed on the utility bills each month).
  - If I make my PIPP payments in full and on time every month, I will receive a credit for 1/24th of my total past-due amount, and I will not need to pay the difference between my PIPP payment and my actual bill amount.
  - If I reapply for PIPP and I am not eligible, or if I choose to be removed from PIPP, I can enroll in Graduate PIPP for up to 12 months after the date I am removed and still receive credits toward my past-due amounts owed on my utility accounts.
  - If I move out of the service area for my gas/electric company, I can enroll in the Post PIPP program to make payments on my closed account and receive credits toward the past-due amounts.
  - I am legally responsible for all past-due amounts on my gas and/or electric accounts and if I am no longer enrolled in PIPP, the past due amounts will become due. If these past-due amounts are not paid in full, the utility companies may use any standard means of collection for the past-due amounts on my accounts.
  - I may appeal if my application is not decided upon within 12 weeks. I also may appeal within 30 days if I disagree with my benefit amount or if I was denied assistance.

## General Authorization

An applicant who provides inaccurate income or household composition information risks: being dropped from PIPP and/or other energy assistance programs; being ineligible to reapply for 24 months; having arrearage credits added back on to their utility bill; and/or receiving a bill from their utility (ies) for the full account balance.

I authorize the Tax Commissioner of the Ohio Department of Taxation or any agent or employee designated by the Tax Commissioner of the Ohio Department of Taxation as well as the Director of the Ohio Department of Development or any designated agent or employee of the Director, or the Director of the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services or any designated agent or employee of the Director, to disclose to the Director of the Ohio Department of Development or any designated agent or employee of the Director, or to the Tax Commissioner of the Ohio Department of Taxation, or any agent or employee designated by the Tax Commissioner, all of my state of Ohio income tax information. The applicant expressly waives notice of the disclosure(s). The applicant expressly waives the confidentiality provisions of the Ohio Revised Code which might otherwise prohibit disclosure and agrees to hold the Ohio Department of Taxation, the Ohio Department of Development, and the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services, and their respective agents and employees harmless with respect to the disclosures herein. This authorization is to be liberally construed and interpreted; any ambiguity shall be resolved in favor of the Tax Commissioner of the Ohio Department of Taxation, the Director of the Ohio Department of Development, and the Director of the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services.

I understand that by signing this application, I grant the Ohio Department of Development, or its authorized providers, access to my bank, employment, public assistance, utility company or other records needed for verification and evaluation of services. I further grant Ohio Department of Development, or its authorized providers, access to any information that I have provided to any other state agency, including but not limited to income information regarding requests for public assistance. I understand that filling out this application does not guarantee that my household will receive assistance. If I am or become a PIPP customer I understand that I may be included in a group for which electric service is purchased in common. I understand that any authorized provider may rescind an approved payment if information is acquired which determines that my household is not eligible for services according to the rules of each program. I understand that I have the right to appeal. I certify that the information I have provided in this application is, to the best of my knowledge, a true, accurate and complete disclosure of the requested information. I understand that I may be held civilly and criminally liable under federal and state laws for knowingly making false or fraudulent statements.

**I declare under penalty of perjury the information submitted in this application is true and correct.**

**PLEASE SIGN AND MAIL APPLICATION TO:**

**Office of Community Assistance, Home Energy Assistance Program  
P.O. Box 1240, Columbus, Ohio 43216**

**X Sign Here** \_\_\_\_\_ **Application Date** \_\_\_\_\_