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Energy Resources Guide for Residential Buildings and Non-Profit Facilities

Contents

Energy Resources Guide for Residential Buildings and Non-Profit Facilities.....	1
Purpose	4
Multifamily Energy Efficiency Programs	5
Multi-Family Energy Savings	5
Ameren Illinois Multifamily Energy Efficiency Incentives	5
Ameren Illinois Public Housing Authority Incentives	5
Oak Park Housing Programs.....	6
Single-Family Energy Efficiency Programs	7
Ameren Illinois Home Energy Assessment.....	7
Ecology Action Center BN Energy Bright Program.....	7
Chicago Bungalow Association (CBA) Home Energy Savings Program	7
ComEd Single-Family Home Energy Savings	8
H.O.M.E. (Housing Opportunities & Maintenance for the Elderly)	8
Illinois Energy Efficiency Loan Program	8
Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program (IHWAP)	9
MidAmerican Residential Instant Discounts and Rebate Programs	9
Peoples Gas Home Energy Savings Program.....	10
Nicor Gas Energy Efficiency Program.....	10
Oak Park Single-Family Rehabilitation Loans and Grants	10
Small Accessible Repairs for Seniors (SARFS).....	11
Energy Efficiency Programs for Non-Profit Organizations.....	11
Ameren Illinois Small Business Incentives	11
ComEd Energy Efficiency Program.....	12
Bill Savings Programs	13
ComEd Residential Payment Assistance Program	13
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Utility Bill Assistance.....	13
Ameren Illinois Power Smart Pricing.....	13
Ameren Illinois Peak Time Rewards.....	14
ComEd’s Hourly Pricing.....	14

ComEd’s Peak Time Savings	14
Peoples Gas Share the Warmth Program	15
North Shore Gas Share the Warmth Program	15
Nicor Gas Shield of Caring Program	15
Chicago’s Utility Billing Relief (UBR) Program.....	16
Utility Bill Payment Plans	16
Affordable Connectivity Program	16
Income Qualified Internet Programs	16
Health and Safety Programs	18
City of Chicago Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes Program	18
City of Chicago Technical Assistance Citywide (TACIT)	18
ComEd Public Schools Carbon-Free Assessment	19
Home Improvement Programs	20
Single-Family Housing Repair Loans and Grants.....	20
City of Chicago Home Repair Program (HRP).....	20
City of Chicago Emergency Heating Repair Program	20
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development – Approved Housing Counseling Agencies...	21
Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) Revitalization and Repair Programs	21
Habitat for Humanity of Illinois.....	21

Purpose

Illinois Solar for All (ILSFA) brings the benefits of solar energy to income-eligible communities through its Residential Solar (Small and Large), Non-Profit and Public Facilities, and Community Solar sub-programs. Illinois Solar for All offers this **Energy Resources Guide for Residential Buildings and Non-Profit Facilities** to provide information on programs and services to improve building energy performance, affordability, tenant comfort, health, and safety. This includes energy efficiency programs, bill payment programs, health and safety programs, and building improvement programs.

Programs are organized by service offering and include a description, eligibility requirements, applicable property categories, and relevant website(s) to find more information.

Note: Most of the programs and resources listed here are only available in a specified geographic area (e.g., city, town, county, utility service territory, neighborhood, rural area) and type of customer or demographic (e.g., residential, income-eligible, senior citizen). Interested parties should confirm eligibility criteria, status, available funding, and applicability of the programs listed directly with the administrators of the identified programs and services.

Multifamily Energy Efficiency Programs

The following programs can assist building owners with energy efficiency upgrades. Some programs can assist in remediating health and safety issues that need addressing before energy efficiency upgrades can proceed.

Multi-Family Energy Savings

Multi-Family Energy Savings offers property owners opportunities to save money and energy at their multifamily properties. Serving properties in the ComEd, Nicor Gas, Peoples Gas, and North Shore Gas territories, the offering provides free products and incentives for energy efficiency improvements. Energy-saving products and services include ENERGY STAR® certified LEDs, boiler replacements, air conditioners, weatherization improvements, and more.

Eligibility requirements: Three or more unit multifamily properties; located in ComEd, Nicor Gas, Peoples Gas, or North Shore Gas territories.

- www.multifamilyportal.com
- Phone: 855-993-0940

Ameren Illinois Multifamily Energy Efficiency Incentives

Ameren Illinois offers qualifying multifamily properties free and low-cost energy-saving incentives that reduce operating costs, such as LEDs, advanced power strips, smart thermostats, and more. Incentives for air sealing and attic insulation are also available for qualifying buildings.

Eligibility requirements: Income requirements; three or more unit multifamily properties; property must be serviced by Ameren Illinois.

- www.amerenillinoisavings.com/multifamily/multifamily-property-managers
- Phone: 866-838-6918
- IllinoisResidentialEE@ameren.com

Ameren Illinois Public Housing Authority Incentives

Ameren Illinois program staff are available to provide technical and financial assistance to Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) to improve tenant comfort, manage usage, and reduce costs. PHAs are eligible to receive incentives for energy efficiency upgrades for projects that service income-eligible

residents. Ameren Illinois can help PHAs develop plans at the start of a project to maximize eligible incentives to help improve residents' comfort, manage usage, and reduce costs.

Eligibility requirements: Limited to Public Housing Authorities within Ameren Illinois territory; additional occupancy and compliance requirements.

- www.amerenillinoisavings.com/qualified
- Phone: 866-838-6918
- IllinoisResidentialEE@ameren.com

Oak Park Housing Programs

The Village of Oak Park has a wide range of support programs managed by the Development Customer Services Department to expand quality, affordable homeownership and rental housing options to residents. Resources include the Condominium Management Program, Energy Efficiency Grants, Foreclosure Prevention Assistance, First-Time Homebuyer Assistance, and more.

Eligibility requirements: Property must be in the Village of Oak Park; further requirements vary by program.

- www.oak-park.us/village-services/housing-programs
- Phone: 708-358-5410
- housing@oak-park.us

Single-Family Energy Efficiency Programs

Ameren Illinois Home Energy Assessment

Ameren Illinois offers qualifying residential homes free energy assessments to determine home energy performance and identify energy-saving opportunities. This includes free energy-efficiency products such as LEDs, advanced power strips, smart thermostats, and more. Incentives for air sealing and attic insulation are also available for qualifying homes.

Eligibility requirements: Income requirements; residential customer of Ameren Illinois; reside in a single-family home.

- amerenillinoisavings.com/residential/instant-savers-assessment
- Phone: 866-838-6918
- IllinoisResidentialEE@ameren.com

Ecology Action Center BN Energy Bright Program

BN EnergyBright is a comprehensive energy efficiency resource for homes and businesses in Bloomington-Normal. Participants can sign up for low-cost home energy audits, receive energy-saving toolkits with a comprehensive analysis of their home or small business energy usage, learn about additional financial resources, and more.

- <https://bnenergybright.org/>
- (309) 454-3169 x.15
- larmstrong@ecologyactioncenter.org

Chicago Bungalow Association (CBA) Home Energy Savings Program

ComEd, Nicor Gas, North Shore Gas, and Peoples Gas provide customers with free home energy services and upgrades in partnership with the Chicago Bungalow Association (CBA). Free home energy assessments may include weatherization services and installation of energy-saving products to help increase comfort, lower utility bills, add value, and extend the life of your home.

Eligibility requirements: Income requirements; single-family home or two-flat building; home was built at least 30 years ago; owner-occupied (if applying for a two-flat building, both units must be inhabited)

and the building owner must occupy one unit); located in Cook County; not a previous Energy Savers Program participant.

- www.chicagobungalow.org/energy-savers
- Phone: 312-675-0300
- saveenergy@chicagobungalow.org

ComEd Single-Family Home Energy Savings

ComEd customers have opportunities to reduce energy usage with a free energy assessment that includes free and discounted products for your home.

Eligibility requirements: Single-family homes; two-flat buildings; condominiums; mobile homes; manufactured homes; townhomes. Renters in these building types are also eligible, with permission from their landlord.

- www.comed.com/WaysToSave/ForYourHome/Pages/SingleFamily.aspx
- Phone: 855-433-2700

H.O.M.E. (Housing Opportunities & Maintenance for the Elderly)

This program helps Chicago's income-eligible senior homeowners maintain their independence by providing services including home upkeep and repair; a "shopping bus" to assist seniors who have limited mobility or live in areas with little access to fresh food; affordable housing; and a moving program offering support and assistance when moving to a new home.

Eligibility requirements: 62 years of age or older (55 or older if disabled); live south of North Avenue within the City of Chicago; have no more than \$1,200/month in income (income/mortgage ratio is considered).

- homeseniors.org
- Phone: 773-921-3200
- info@homeseniors.org

Illinois Energy Efficiency Loan Program

The Illinois Energy Efficiency Loan Program allows utility customers of Ameren Illinois, ComEd, Nicor Gas, North Shore Gas, and Peoples Gas to pay for energy efficiency investments through a monthly loan charge on their utility bills.

Eligibility requirements: All installation energy efficiency measures must meet minimum efficiency requirements to qualify for financing.

- ilenergyloan.com
- Phone: 877-923-2665
- efs@energyfinancesolutions.com

Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program (IHWAP)

The Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program provides weatherization services for income-eligible residents and households to reduce energy costs and make homes more energy efficient. This is done through various improvements, including insulation and air sealing. Services are performed at no cost to qualified applicants, depending on the program.

Eligibility requirements: Illinois residents; the household's combined income must be at or below 150% of the federal poverty level using State funds and 200% of the federal poverty level using DOE and HHS funding.

- dceo.illinois.gov/communityservices/homeweatherization.html
- Phone: 217-836-1377
- Communityassist@illinois.gov

MidAmerican Residential Instant Discounts and Rebate Programs

MidAmerican Energy Company offers instant rebates and discounts to make it easier for residents to upgrade their home equipment to energy efficient models. Customers of MidAmerican Energy qualify for rebates on programmable thermostats, air source heat pumps, add-on heat pumps, ground-source heat pumps, central air conditioning units, and room air conditioning units, and discounts on central air conditioners and natural gas furnaces.

Eligibility requirements: Residential customers of MidAmerican Energy Company; must meet the [list of qualifications and conditions](#).

- <https://www.midamericanenergy.com/il-residential-rebates>
- Phone: 887-932-0616
- Energyexpert@midamerican.com

Peoples Gas Home Energy Savings Program

Homeowners can reduce their energy and water usage with a free assessment that includes free and discounted installation of energy-saving products.

Eligibility requirements: Peoples Gas residential customers; owners of single-family homes, two-flat buildings, and individually metered condos and townhomes. Renters are also eligible, with permission from their landlord.

- www.peoplesgasdelivery.com/savings/rebates-direct
- Phone: 855-660-9378

Nicor Gas Energy Efficiency Program

The Nicor Gas energy efficiency program offers free assessments and incentives for homeowners and renters. An Energy Advisor will walk through your home to understand its energy usage, and you will receive a customized report detailing opportunities to save energy and money.

Eligibility requirements: Home assessments are available to customers living in homes with two units or less, townhomes, duplexes, and individually owned and metered condos.

- www.nicorgas.com/residential/ways-to-save/free-products-and-services
- Phone: 855-660-9378

Oak Park Single-Family Rehabilitation Loans and Grants

Designed to improve the Village of Oak Park's housing stock, the loans intend to bring structures into compliance with housing and building codes and eliminate health and safety hazards. Funds may also be used for weatherization and accessibility for disabled residents.

Eligibility requirements: Income requirements; owner-occupied single-family homes in the Village of Oak Park.

- www.oak-park.us/village-services/housing-programs
- Phone: 708-358-5410
- housing@oak-park.us

Small Accessible Repairs for Seniors (SARFS)

**Currently closed, may reopen waiting list in 2024.*

The Small Accessible Repairs for Seniors (SARFS) program provides safety, security, and accessibility improvements that help senior citizens to remain in their homes. Repair types are limited to minor repairs that may include (but are not limited to) grab bars, lever faucets, door repairs, carbon monoxide detectors, smoke detectors, and wheelchair ramps.

Eligibility requirements: Chicago seniors who earn no more than 80% of the AMI and are at least 60 years of age. Qualified recipients may be owners or renters residing in a one- to four-unit building. Renters must have permission from the landlord, and the landlord needs to certify that they will not increase the rent due to SARFS improvements.

- www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/doh/provdrs/homeowners/svcs/sarfs.html
- For contact information, find a delegate agency based on your ward: [2022 SARFS-Delegate Agency List](#)

Energy Efficiency Programs for Non-Profit Organizations

Ameren Illinois Small Business Incentives

Ameren Illinois offers discounts and incentives to small businesses for energy efficiency projects. Non-profit organizations may qualify for these discounts and incentives.

Eligibility requirements: Eligibility requirements vary per incentive; located in Ameren Illinois territory.

- amerenillinoisavings.com/business/industry-solutions/small-business
- Phone: 866-800-0747
- IllinoisBusinessEE@ameren.com

ComEd Energy Efficiency Program

The ComEd Energy Efficiency program offers free facility assessments and incentives to help commercial and industrial facilities—including non-profit organizations—save money by improving the efficiency of their equipment. Eligible customers can receive incentives for common energy efficiency improvements such as LED lighting retrofits, HVAC upgrades, and more.

Eligibility requirements (ComEd Small Business Offering): Non-residential ComEd customers with an electrical peak demand under 400 kWh for public facilities and private businesses.

Eligibility requirements (ComEd Standard Offering): Non-residential ComEd customers.

- www.comed.com/ways-to-save/for-your-business
- Phone: 855-433-2700
- BusinessEE@ComEd.com
- PublicSectorEE@ComEd.com

Bill Savings Programs

These programs assist homeowners by lowering utility bills or offering financial assistance to pay utility bills.

ComEd Residential Payment Assistance Program

ComEd has a portfolio of payment assistance programs including credit empowerment, bill payment assistance, budget billing, due date extension, and more. The [Smart Assistance Manager \(SAM\)](#) provides personalized recommendations to best meet customer needs.

Eligibility requirements: Varies based on program.

- www.comed.com/my-account/customer-support/payment-assistance
- Phone: 888-806-2273

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Utility Bill Assistance

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program Utility Bill Assistance helps income-eligible households pay for home energy services. This includes assistance with heating gas, propane, and electricity. More information on services available in your region can be found by visiting your Local Administering Agency (referred to as a local agency). The LIHEAP application period is October 2, 2023 to August 15, 2024, or until funding is exhausted.

Eligibility requirements: Income requirements; Illinois residents.

- dceo.illinois.gov/communityservices/homeweatherization/communityactionagencies/helpillinoisfamilies.html
- Phone: 833-711-0374

Ameren Illinois Power Smart Pricing

Power Smart Pricing is an electric supply rate option from Ameren Illinois that provides participants access to lower-cost, off-peak electricity prices. Your bill is calculated using the hourly market prices and your corresponding hourly usage. Participation in Power Smart Pricing does not guarantee savings over the standard fixed-price rate, and individual savings will vary from month to month based on usage and market conditions.

Eligibility requirements: Ameren Illinois residential electric customers.

- www.ameren.com/illinois/account/customer-service/bill/power-smart-pricing
- Phone: 888-596-5498
- PowerSmartPricing@ameren.com

Ameren Illinois Peak Time Rewards

Peak Time Rewards is a demand response program that rewards residential customers with credits on their bill for reducing electricity usage during peak demand times.

Eligibility requirements: Ameren Illinois residential electric customers with activated smart meters.

- www.ameren.com/illinois/account/customer-service/bill/peak-time-rewards
- Phone: 888-596-5497
- PeakTimeRewards@ameren.com

ComEd's Hourly Pricing

ComEd's Hourly Pricing is an electric supply rate that lets participants pay for electricity at the hourly market price. By shifting some of their energy use to lower-priced hours, Hourly Pricing participants could save money on their monthly bills. Residential customers can talk with an Hourly Pricing specialist to determine if the rate suits their household. Savings are not guaranteed.

Eligibility requirements: ComEd residential customers.

- hourlypricing.comed.com
- Phone: 888-202-7787
- info@comedhourlypricing.com

ComEd's Peak Time Savings

ComEd's Peak Time Savings enables participants to earn credits on their energy bill when they participate voluntarily on days with Peak Time Savings Summer Hours. When electricity demand is high, participants have the chance to earn bill credits by reducing usage.

Eligibility requirements: ComEd residential customers with activated smart meters.

- www.comed.com/WaysToSave/ForYourHome/Pages/PeakTimeSavings.aspx

- Phone: 844-852-0347

Peoples Gas Share the Warmth Program

Administered for Peoples Gas by the Community and Economic Development Association (CEDA), Share the Warmth provides heating grants to limited and fixed-income households; eligible customers can receive grants on their bills as well as receive payment plans for assistance in paying bills.

Eligibility requirements: Income requirements; Peoples Gas customers.

- www.peoplesgasdelivery.com/payment-bill/share-warmth
- Phone: 800-571-2332

North Shore Gas Share the Warmth Program

Administered for North Shore Gas by the Community Action Partnership of Lake County, Share the Warmth provides heating grants to limited and fixed-income households; eligible customers can receive grants on their bills.

Eligibility requirements: Income requirements; North Shore Gas customers.

- www.northshoregasdelivery.com/payment-bill/share-warmth
- Phone: 847-249-4330

Nicor Gas Shield of Caring Program

Administered by The Salvation Army, the Nicor Gas Shield of Caring program provides one-time annual grants to qualified residential customers who meet the required income guidelines. Shield of Caring is an emergency assistance and homelessness prevention program that provides individuals and families in the Nicor Gas service area with natural gas bill payment assistance and support for other basic needs, including housing, rental and grocery assistance, and grocery packages. Shield of Caring will begin accepting applications on January 15, 2024.

Eligibility requirements: Income requirements; Nicor Gas residential customer; must be ineligible for state or federal energy assistance programs.

- <https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/northcentralillinois/shield-of-caring/>
- Phone: 888-642-6748

Chicago's Utility Billing Relief (UBR) Program

This program provides Chicago residents with lower incomes a reduced rate on their water, sewer, and water-sewer tax as well as debt relief after successfully completing one year of payments with no past due balance.

- https://chicago.docugateway.com/main/guest/billing_relief/
- Phone: 800-571-2332

Utility Bill Payment Plans

Utility Bill Payment plans can be set up with the City of Chicago for qualified customers.

- www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/fin/provdrs/utility_billing/svcs/utility_bill_payment_plan.html
- Phone: 312-744-4426

Affordable Connectivity Program

The Affordable Connectivity Program helps ensure households can afford the broadband they need for work, school, healthcare, and more. The benefit provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal Lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer or tablet from participating providers if they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price. The Affordable Connectivity Program is limited to one monthly service discount and one device discount per household.

Eligibility requirements: A household is eligible if a member of the household meets at least one of these criteria [listed here](#).

- [Affordable Connectivity Program | Citizens Utility Board](#)
- Phone: 1-800-669-5556

Income Qualified Internet Programs

Families in Illinois may be eligible for affordable internet programs offered by AT&T, Xfinity, Spectrum, RCN, Lifeline and the City of Chicago. These programs are designed to help lower income families stay connected with access to affordable internet services and connected devices. For details on specific programs, [please visit here](#).

- [Income Qualified Internet Programs | Citizens Utility Board](#)
- Phone: 1-800-669-5556

Health and Safety Programs

These programs assist homeowners by offering technical and/or financial assistance to pay for health and safety-related issues.

City of Chicago Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes Program

The Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) works to detect and address exposures to lead hazards. Through home inspections, public education campaigns, and testing, CDPH is leading efforts to permanently eliminate lead exposure among children.

- www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/cdph/provdrs/healthy_homes/svcs/lead-poisoning-prevention.html
- Phone: 312-747-5323
- healthychicago@cityofchicago.org

City of Chicago Technical Assistance Citywide (TACIT)

This program funds non-profit organizations to serve as the City of Chicago's experts—or delegate agencies—on housing-related topics such as Fair Housing compliance, property management, rental issues, affordable housing issues, and more.

Eligibility requirements: Variable by delegate agency; most are open to all City of Chicago residents with some limits on income, home ownership/rental status, and more; must be in the City of Chicago.

- www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/doh/provdrs/homeowners/svcs/technical-assistance-citywide--tacit-.html
- Phone: 312-744-3653
- DOH@cityofchicago.org

ComEd Public Schools Carbon-Free Assessment

The Public Schools Carbon-Free Assessment program provides facility assessments to identify opportunities to save energy, electrify facilities, and reduce overall carbon usage. Once assessments are complete, ComEd will help customers access energy efficiency incentives and plan additional decarbonization projects.

Eligibility requirements: Must be a public school or public school district located within ComEd territory.

- www.comed.com/ways-to-save/for-your-business/facility-assessments/public-schools-carbon-free-assessment
- Phone: 855-433-2700
- BusinessEE@ComEd.com

Home Improvement Programs

These programs assist building owners with building upgrades. For a full list of home repairs and upgrades program, please visit the [External Funding Document](#).

Single-Family Housing Repair Loans and Grants

Also known as the Section 504 Home Repair program, this program provides loans to income-eligible homeowners to repair, improve, or modernize their homes or grants to elderly income-eligible homeowners to remove health and safety hazards. The maximum loan is \$40,000; the maximum grant is \$10,000; and loans and grants can be combined for up to \$50,000 in assistance.

Eligibility requirements: Income requirements; owner-occupied; be unable to obtain affordable credit elsewhere; have a household income that does not exceed the [very low limit](#) by county; must be age 62 or older for grants.

- www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/single-family-housing-repair-loans-grants/il
- Phone: 217-403-6200
- For contact information based on USDA area, visit: www.rd.usda.gov/files/ILSFHDirectMap.pdf

City of Chicago Home Repair Program (HRP)

Previously known as the City of Chicago Roof and Porch Repair Program, the Home Repair Program (HRP) provides grants to income-eligible homeowners for improvements to their roof or porch. In 2024, the program is only open to residents who own and occupy a 1-to-2-unit residential property and who earn up to 50% of the Area Median Income (AMI). This must be your primary and only residence.

- www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/doh/provdrs/homeowners/svcs/home-repair-program.html
- Phone: 312-744-3653

City of Chicago Emergency Heating Repair Program

*This program is open from November 1, 2023 to April 1, 2024.

The City of Chicago Emergency Heating Repair Program is a first-come, first-served grant program for emergency repair or replacement of faulty or inoperable residential heating systems during the winter season.



Eligibility requirements: Income requirements; owner-occupied home; must be on deed for one year prior to application; habitable; not at risk of foreclosure; located in Chicago; all utilities must be current and in working order; must maintain ownership and occupancy for one year or pay back prorated amount of funds.

- www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/doh/provdrs/homeowners/svcs/emergency-heating-repair-program.html
- Phone: 312-744-3653
- DOH@cityofchicago.org

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development – Approved Housing Counseling Agencies

Approved housing counseling agencies support customers to make informed decisions when making home improvements. There are 10 counseling locations across Illinois that provide services for home improvement and rehabilitation.

- Access [a map and contact information here](#)

Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) Revitalization and Repair Programs

The Illinois Housing Development Authority Revitalization and Repair Programs work with local government and non-profit organizations to offer programs that address vacant residential properties as well as funding programs that allow homeowners to make necessary repairs and accessibility improvements to their homes.

Eligibility requirements: Income requirements; Illinois residents.

- www.ihda.org/my-community/revitalization-programs
- Phone: 312-836-5200

Habitat for Humanity of Illinois

Habitat for Humanity is a global housing non-profit organization that supports communities in building homes and hope. It provides rehabilitation and preservation of homes to ensure equitable standards of

housing. There are several locations across the state which provide different services to the community, including home repairs.

- To find the closest affiliate: habitatillinois.org/illinois-affiliates