**Maine’s Energy Usage & the Home Energy Assistance Program**

**How Mainers Heat Their Homes and Their Use of the Home Energy Assistance Program**

**TOTAL MAINE HOUSEHOLDS:** 2010: 551,125  2015: 553,284  % CHANGE: 0.4%

### Own versus Rent

- **HEAP Household Tenure**
  - HEAP Program Tenure: Own Home Rent Home
  - Tenure Percentage: 63%, 62%, 64%, 65%, 64%
  - 37%, 38%, 36%, 35%, 36%

- **Maine Household Tenure**
  - Tenure Percentage: 73%, 72%, 72%, 71%, 71%
  - Rent Home: 27%, 28%, 28%, 29%, 29%

**Source: MaineHousing**

MaineHousing administers a Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). The distribution of owned to rented HEAP-assisted properties compared to Maine reflects lower rental incomes and subsequently greater need for assistance. The fact that fewer HEAP users have utilities included in their rent than the population as a whole may also account for the difference.

### Rentals with Heat Included

- **% Utilities included in rent**
  - 7.9% for HEAP Users
  - 78.7% for Maine Users
  - 92.1% for Maine Users

**Source: US Census, Table B25069 & MaineHousing Data**

Between 2010 and 2015, fewer Maine renters have been paying directly for their utilities. Most of Maine renters have utilities included in their rents. HEAP users by contrast are much more likely to pay for utilities directly.

### Mainer’s Sources of Home Heating Fuel in 2015

- **Other fuel used, 0.2%**
- **Utility gas, 6.0%**
- **Bottled, tank, or LP gas, 8.2%**
- **Electricity, 5.0%**
- **Solar energy, 0.1%**
- **Fuel oil, kerosene, etc., 64.9%**
- **Coal or coke, 13.5%**

**Source: US Census: ACS 5 Year, 2011 - 2015, Table B25040**

Though the use of fossil fuels to heat our homes continues to decline slowly, oil remains our primary home heating fuel.

### Maine’s Diminishing Reliance on Oil

- **2006 - 2010**
  - 74.1% for Oil
  - 9.8% for Wood

- **2011 - 2015**
  - 64.9% for Oil
  - 13.5% for Wood

**Source: US Census, Table B25040**

Between 2010 and 2015, heating oil use dropped 9 percent as Mainers switched to other fuels. Wood use increased 4 percent.
Sources of Heat for HEAP Participants

A reduction in the units of fuel used by HEAP recipients since 2012, with the exception being natural gas, is due in part to the decline in the number of program participants. In general, all fuel prices in 2016 were lower than 2014 levels.

Generally speaking, #2 heating oil prices have continued to decline since 2012. When market prices increased, HEAP users paid less per gallon than others. As market prices declined however, HEAP users were not realizing similar savings. In 2016 the difference in price was only 5 cents per gallon.

HEAP applicants’ requests for alternative fuels such as wood, bio-bricks, coal, and wood pellets have been increasing over the past 10 years while the use of more traditional fuels have declined with the exception being LP gas.
Home Energy Assistance Program

Program Details
MaineHousing administers the federal Home Energy Assistance Program in Maine for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

HEAP includes heating assistance, emergency crisis intervention, weatherization, and central heating system improvement programs.

Eligibility
Households must meet income eligibility guidelines or have incomes of 60% of the state area median income, whichever is less.

Eligibility for households with incomes between 150% and 170% of the federal poverty guidelines is limited to those households with a member who is susceptible to hypothermia, such as elderly, a child twenty-four months of age or under, or with a doctor's diagnosis.

Federal Funding Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FFY12</th>
<th>FFY13</th>
<th>FFY14</th>
<th>FFY15</th>
<th>FFY16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HEAP Base Grant Award</td>
<td>$22,957,861</td>
<td>$34,916,307</td>
<td>$32,548,913</td>
<td>$34,036,807</td>
<td>$33,574,080</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplemental HEAP Award</td>
<td>$15,562,992</td>
<td>$1,130,011</td>
<td>$5,213,836</td>
<td>$3,711,949</td>
<td>$3,920,878</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$38,520,853</td>
<td>$36,046,318</td>
<td>$37,762,749</td>
<td>$37,748,756</td>
<td>$37,494,958</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: MaineHousing

Households Receiving Fuel Assistance

The number of households provided with benefits has dropped from an all-time program high of 62,363 in 2011 to 32,219 in 2016 due primarily to reductions in the amount of federal funding.

HEAP Fuel Assistance Benefits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Year</th>
<th>Minimum Benefit</th>
<th>Maximum Benefit</th>
<th>Average Benefit</th>
<th>Households w/ Benefit less than Average Benefit</th>
<th>% Households w/ Benefit less than Average Benefit</th>
<th>Households w/ Benefit greater than Average Benefit</th>
<th>% Households w/ Benefit greater than Average Benefit</th>
<th>Total Households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$76</td>
<td>$1,288</td>
<td>$499</td>
<td>25,192</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>25,213</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50,405</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>$80</td>
<td>$1,656</td>
<td>$583</td>
<td>24,305</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>20,102</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>44,407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$84</td>
<td>$1,886</td>
<td>$711</td>
<td>20,590</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>18,505</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>39,095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>$88</td>
<td>$1,610</td>
<td>$637</td>
<td>19,847</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>17,345</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>37,192</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$108</td>
<td>$1,840</td>
<td>$663</td>
<td>16,260</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>15,926</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>32,186</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: MaineHousing

Emergency Crisis Intervention Program, Weatherization Benefits

<table>
<thead>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Households</td>
<td>3,884</td>
<td>5,505</td>
<td>6,218</td>
<td>5063</td>
<td>1,981</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avg Benefit</td>
<td>$361</td>
<td>$525</td>
<td>$380</td>
<td>$7,761</td>
<td>$7,777</td>
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<td>ECIP</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>436</td>
<td>875</td>
<td>579</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avg Benefit</td>
<td>$6,212</td>
<td>$7,863</td>
<td>$7,618</td>
<td>$7,761</td>
<td>$5,479</td>
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*Excludes Central Heating Improvement Program

Source: MaineHousing

For more information about HEAP or other MaineHousing programs, please contact us at: