catawba county
social services

Crisis Intervention Program (CIP)

The Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) is a federally funded program that assists individuals and families who are experiencing a heating or cooling-related crisis.

A household is considered to be in a crisis if it is currently experiencing or is in danger of experiencing a life-threatening or health-related emergency and sufficient, timely, and appropriate assistance is not available from any other source.

Households may qualify for CIP if they are behind on payment for their primary heating or cooling source and do not have timely and appropriate assistance available from any other resources.

Households may receive up to $600 assistance per year. The benefit amount received varies depending on the amount needed to alleviate the crisis.

Applications are taken each year beginning July 1st – June 30th of the following year or until the allocated CIP funds have been exhausted, whichever comes first.

All payments are made directly to the vendor. Catawba County Social Services partners with Ashure Ministry to facilitate the application process and distribution of allocated CIP funds directly to the vendors (gas/utility company, energy providers, etc).

Eligibility Criteria:

- Have at least one U.S. citizen or qualified alien in the home.
- Meet the income limits.
- Have an energy-related crisis (past due or disconnected service).
- Have a utility statement that shows amount owed to alleviate the crisis.

How to Apply:

- In person at Ashure Ministry, located at 245 East N. Street, Newton, NC 28658
  - Monday – Thursday, 8:30AM – 4:30PM
- By phone, email, or fax. Contact Ashure Ministry at 828-465-1702.
  - Monday – Thursday, 8:30AM – 4:30PM
- Online – complete an application anytime by visiting epass.nc.gov.

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Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP)

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) is a federally funded program that provides a one-time per year vendor payment to help eligible households pay their heating bill.

All payments are made directly to the vendor. Catawba County Social Services partners with Ashure Ministry to facilitate the application process and distribution of allocated LIEAP funds directly to the vendor (gas/utility company).

Eligibility Criteria:

- Have at least one U.S. citizen or qualified alien in the home.
- Meet the income limits.
- Be responsible for heating costs.

When to Apply:

- Households that include a person aged 60 or older or a disabled person receiving services through the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services are eligible to apply for LIEAP beginning December 1st – March 31st of the following year or until funds are exhausted, whichever comes first.
- All other households may apply for LIEAP beginning January 1st – March 31st or until funds are exhausted, whichever comes first.

How to Apply:

- In person at Ashure Ministry, located at 245 East N. Street, Newton, NC 28658
  - Monday – Thursday, 8:30AM – 4:30PM
- By phone, email, or fax. Contact Ashure Ministry at 828-465-1702
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