

This page from the EAP Guidance Manual provides local staff with the income limits (150% FPL). These were used for Cooling Assistance in June of 2025 and will be used for Heating and Crisis Assistance in FFY 2026. (Virginia begins to use the new income limits, which are optional until the start of the next FFY, in June of each year.)

6. INCOME

The gross income, both earned and unearned, of each member of the household is to be considered in determining eligibility. The gross income of an individual who, due to a court order, is not included in the number of household members eligible for assistance is to be counted in determining eligibility for the household unit. Money that is paid to a household member by another household member is not considered income.

a. Income Levels

No eligible household shall exceed the income maximums set by the VDSS, except households in which all members are SSI recipients. If all household members receive SSI, follow instructions in the Interim Business Process (IBP) entitled "Energy Assistance Cases Incorrectly Denied for SSI Income" to approve the household. The maximum monthly countable income for each household size is:

Household Size	Maximum Income		Household Size	Maximum Income
1	\$1,956		11	\$8,831
2	\$2,643		12	\$9,518
3	\$3,331		13	\$10,206
4	\$4,018		14	\$10,893
5	\$4,706		15	\$11,581
6	\$5,393		16	\$12,268
7	\$6,081		17	\$12,956
8	\$6,768		18	\$13,643
9	\$7,456		19	\$14,331
10	\$8,143		20	\$15,018

Note: for each extra member over 20, add \$687.

b. Exempt Income

The following exemptions will be applied in establishing eligibility for any EAP component.

- 1) Home produce of the assistance unit utilized for their own consumption.
- 2) The value of SNAP benefits.
- 3) The value of foods donated under the U.S.D.A. Commodity Distribution Program, including those furnished through school meal programs.

The Information Sheet that is available to the public contains the income limits (150% FPL) that will be used in FFY 2026. These were used for Cooling Assistance in June of 2025 and will be used for Heating and Crisis Assistance in FFY 2026. (Virginia begins to use the new income limits, which are optional until the start of the next FFY, in June of each year.)

NEED HELP WITH HEATING OR COOLING?

See if you might be eligible at <https://commonhelp.virginia.gov/access/>.

Applications for help with your heating and cooling bills or equipment needs are accepted online (at <https://commonhelp.virginia.gov/access/>), by calling the Enterprise Customer Service Center at (855) 635 – 4370, and at your local department of social services.

Fuel assistance helps with home heating costs; but can also be used for furnace re-starts, late charges, delivery charges, installation charges, and connection or re-connection fees. *Applications are accepted online, through the Enterprise Customer Service Center, and at local departments of social services from the second Tuesday in October through the second Friday in November.* Benefits are determined and authorizations for deliveries or service are sent to vendors in December.

Crisis assistance is intended to meet a household's emergency heating need, when no other resource is available.

- *Applications are accepted online, through the Enterprise Customer Service Center, and at local departments of social services from November 1 through March 15* for the following: one time only heat security deposit and/or heating equipment repair/purchase. *Assistance is based on the availability of funds.*
- *Applications are accepted online, through the Enterprise Customer Service Center, and at local departments of social services from the first workday in January through March 15* for the purchase of home heating fuel and the payment of heat utility bill. *Assistance is based on the availability of funds.*

Cooling assistance provides purchase or repair of cooling equipment and/or payment for electricity to operate cooling equipment. To be eligible, a household must contain at least one vulnerable individual who is age 60 or over, is living with a disability, or is under age 6. *Applications are accepted online, through the Enterprise Customer Service Center, and at local departments of social services from June 15 through August 15. Assistance is based on the availability of funds.*

Eligibility criteria for assistance include:

- Must be resident of the locality in which application is made
- Must have a heating or cooling expense responsibility
- Monthly gross income may not exceed:

Household Size	Maximum Income		Household Size	Maximum Income
1	\$1,956		11	\$8,831
2	\$2,643		12	\$9,518
3	\$3,331		13	\$10,206
4	\$4,018		14	\$10,893
5	\$4,706		15	\$11,581
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8	\$6,768		18	\$13,643
9	\$7,456		19	\$14,331
10	\$8,143		20	\$15,018

If you suspect Fraud or Abuse of any kind, report it to your Local Department of Social Services or call 1-800-552-3431.

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) administers the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). The WAP reduces household energy use through the installation of cost-effective energy savings measures, which also improve resident health and safety. Common measures including sealing air leaks, adding insulation, and repairing heating and cooling systems. DHCD works with a network of nonprofit organizations around the state, who directly implement the program. More information is available at <https://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/wx>

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CLIMATE ZONES

Western Piedmont

Albemarle	003	Patrick	141
Amherst	009	Pittsylvania	143
Appomattox	011		
Bedford	019		
Campbell	031		
Charlotte	037		
Franklin County	067	Charlottesville	540
Halifax	083	Danville	590
Henry	089	Lynchburg	680
Nelson	125	Martinsville	690

Northern

Arlington	013	Shenandoah	171
Clarke	043	Warren	187
Culpeper	047		
Fairfax County	059		
Fauquier	061		
Frederick	069	Alexandria	510
Greene	079	Fairfax City	600
Loudoun	107	Falls Church	610
Madison	113	Manassas	683
Orange	137	Manassas Park	685
Page	139	Winchester	840
Prince William	153		
Rappahannock	157		

Central Mountain

Alleghany	005	Buena Vista	530
Augusta	015	Clifton Forge	560
Bath	017	Covington	580
Botetourt	023	Harrisonburg	660
Craig	045	Lexington	678
Highland	091	Roanoke City	770
Roanoke County	161	Staunton	790
Rockbridge	163	Waynesboro	820
Rockingham	165		

CLIMATE ZONES

Eastern Piedmont

Amelia	007	Colonial Heights	570
Brunswick	025	Fredericksburg	630
Buckingham	029	Petersburg	730
Caroline	033	Richmond City	760
Chesterfield	041		
Cumberland	049		
Dinwiddie	053		
Fluvanna	065		
Goochland	075		
Hanover	085		
Henrico	087		
Louisa	109		
Lunenburg	111		
Mecklenburg	117		
Nottoway	135		
Powhatan	145		
Prince Edward	147		
Spotsylvania	177		

Southwestern Mountain

Bland	021	Bristol	520
Buchanan	027	Galax	640
Carroll	035	Norton	720
Dickenson	051	Radford	750
Floyd	063		
Giles	071		
Grayson	077		
Lee	105		
Montgomery	121		
Pulaski	155		
Russell	167		
Scott	169		
Smyth	173		
Tazewell	185		
Washington	191		
Wise	195		
Wythe	197		

CLIMATE ZONES

Tidewater

Accomack	001	Chesapeake	550
Charles City	036	Emporia	595
Essex	057	Franklin City	620
Gloucester	073	Hampton	650
Greensville	081	Hopewell	670
Isle of Wight	093	Newport News	700
James City	095	Norfolk	710
King and Queen	097	Poquoson	735
King George	099	Portsmouth	740
King William	101	Suffolk	800
Lancaster	103	Virginia Beach	810
Mathews	115	Williamsburg	830
Middlesex	119		
New Kent	127		
Northampton	131		
Northumberland	133		
Prince George	149		
Richmond County	159		
Southampton	175		
Stafford	179		
Surry	181		
Sussex	183		
Westmoreland	193		
York	199		

BENEFIT DETERMINATION/POINT VALUES DETERMINATION

The values below remain constant from year to year.

HOUSEHOLD SIZE

<u>No. of Persons</u>	<u>Points</u>
6 or more	15
3 to 5	12
1 to 2	9

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

<u>Income as % of Max Level</u>	<u>Points</u>
0 to 19	25
20 to 29	20
30 to 39	18
40 to 49	15
50 to 59	13
60 to 69	10
70 to 79	8
80 to 89	5
90 to 94	3
95 to 100	1

Income levels based on 150% of the Poverty Income Guidelines are determined. The system calculates the percentage of the maximum income level for the household's income to determine the point assignment.

CLIMATE ZONES

<u>Zone</u>	<u>Points</u>
Central Mountain	20
Southwestern Mountain	18
Northern	16
Western Piedmont	13
Eastern Piedmont	12
Tidewater	8

VULNERABILITY

<u>Condition</u>	<u>Points</u>
Elderly (60 and over)	20
Disabled	15
Child under 6	12

Points are not cumulative, but are assigned by the system for the one condition present in the household with the highest point value.

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Living arrangement codes A, C, E, G, and P have a point value of 20.

PRIMARY FUEL

The point value for primary fuel changes on a yearly basis. An annual survey of vendors is conducted to determine the current price per fuel type. Consumption data is obtained from a Cost and Consumption study conducted by Virginia Tech. Costs are then calculated and ranked in order. The highest cost fuel type is assigned 20 points. All other fuel types are assigned points based on the cost of the fuel type as a percentage of all fuel costs.

ENERGY BURDEN

The average fuel cost obtained from the annual survey will be divided by the income of the household to determine the household's energy burden. The point assignment based on percentage of energy burden is as follows:

<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Points</u>
0 - 19	0
20 - 29	5
30 - 39	8
40 - 49	10
50 - 69	13
70 - 79	18
80 - 89	20
90 - 94	24
95 - 100	25