

## **Iowa Announces COVID-19 Residential Utility Disruption Prevention Program**

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### ***Financial Assistance Available to Eligible Low-Income Iowans for COVID-19 Utility Disruption Prevention***

Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds and the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) today announced the launch of the new Residential Utility Disruption Prevention Program. The program will provide eligible households with up to \$2,000 towards electric, natural gas and water bills if they are at risk of disconnection due to an inability to pay due to a COVID-19 related loss of income. Payments through the program will be made directly to utility providers and applied to the applicant's account.

"We are facing an unprecedented pandemic and from the very beginning the state has made it a priority to provide critical assistance to families, farmers, renters, homeowners, and small business owners," said Gov. Reynolds. "For Iowans who lost their job or saw their paycheck shrink as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Residential Utility Disruption Prevention Program will help them keep the power on and their water running."

The state allocated approximately \$14.5 million of federal CARES Act funds for utility assistance programs (the Small Business Utility Disruption Prevention Program launched in mid-July). To be eligible to receive assistance, a residential electric, natural gas and/or water utility customer must have:

- A primary Iowa residence with active residential utility accounts, renters may apply as long as the utility account is in the applicant's name;
- An unpaid utility bill balance or have previously entered into a payment plan with their utility provider;
- An annual income that is 80% of the median family income, based on county and household size
- Experienced a COVID-19 loss of income (job loss, reduction in hours, reduction in pay) on or after March 17, 2020 that resulted in hardship in paying bills for electric, natural gas, and/or water utility service provided between March 17, 2020 and October 31, 2020.

"Iowans, especially our low-income citizens have been greatly impacted due to the COVID-19 pandemic," said IEDA and Iowa Finance Authority Director Debi Durham. "We are proud to make available this program offering to help our most vulnerable maintain critical utility services."

For a full list of eligibility requirements, additional information and to apply, visit [iowahousingrecovery.com](http://iowahousingrecovery.com). Applications will be accepted between October 8, 2020, and November 20, 2020, or until funding is depleted, whichever comes first. Assistance will be awarded based on application completeness and eligibility in order received until all funds have been exhausted.