

Connecting eligible FirstEnergy utility customers with bill assistance

Winter restrictions expire April 15 in Ohio

# Take control of your electric bill

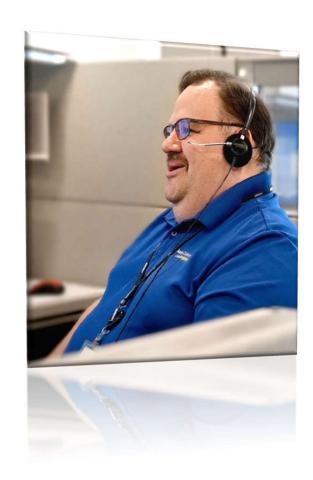
- FirstEnergy's Ohio electric companies including Ohio Edison – are encouraging customers experiencing financial hardship to contact their utility as soon as possible to establish affordable payment arrangements or obtain assistance.
  - Shut-offs for nonpayment resume without winter season restrictions beginning April 15.
  - Many of our customers have difficulty paying their full electric bill due to unforeseen circumstances, like the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.
  - The last thing we want to do is apply a late fee or issue a service disconnection notice to a customer when it can be avoided by contacting our customer service team to see what help is available.





### Help is available

- Individuals interested in learning more about utility assistance programs can do so in several ways:
  - Visit our newly-designed Bill Assistance web page at <u>www.firstenergycorp.com/billassist</u> and click "Search Assistance Programs" to see available programs based on income and household size.
  - Fill out a form on the website to contact a customer service representative with any questions or concerns.
  - Contact our dedicated customer service team Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., at 1-800-633-4766.



## Programs available in Ohio

#### The Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP):

- Allows customers to pay a set percentage of their income toward their electric bill, regardless of the balance.
- Customers who pay on time and in full each month can have their outstanding balance eliminated in 24 months.
- To be eligible, customers must have a household gross yearly income at or below 150% of federal poverty guidelines and must meet other criteria.
- To apply, call 1-800-282-0880 or visit <u>www.energyhelp.ohio.gov</u>.

### ■ Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP):

- Provides eligible customers with cash grants for home heating bills and emergencies through HEAP, which is available year-round, and Emergency HEAP Winter Crisis Program, which is available through March 31, 2022.
- Customers must have gross income below 175% of federal poverty guidelines. Call the Ohio Development Service Agency at 1-800-282-0880 or visit <a href="https://www.energyhelp.ohio.gov">www.energyhelp.ohio.gov</a> for more information.

## Programs available in Ohio

#### 2-1-1 Helpline

- This nationwide resource and information helpline identifies locally available programs that may assist customers with utility bills or other needs.
- For more information, dial 211, text your ZIP code to 898211 or visit the 211 website.

### Ohio Edison Project Reach

- An emergency hardship fund designed to help residential customers restore or maintain electric service.
- The program funding is provided by Ohio Edison customers and employees, and the distribution of funds is administered by Salvation Army offices located throughout Ohio Edison's service area.
- To find an agency, please visit <u>www.firstenergycorp.com/ReachAgencies</u>.

### Spread the word in your community

- Post our video on your website or social media pages
  - Link: <a href="https://bit.ly/FEBillAssistVideo">https://bit.ly/FEBillAssistVideo</a>
- Share our news release about the various bill assistance programs on your website, newsletters and social media pages.
  - Link: <a href="https://bit.ly/FEBillAssistanceOhio">https://bit.ly/FEBillAssistanceOhio</a>
- Encourage residents to visit our website, <u>firstenergycorp.com/billassist</u>, and use our "Search Assistance Program" tool to get started.

