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520 2nd Ave, South Charleston, WV 25303 . wwpresbytery.org . 304-744-7634

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Emergency Assistance Program (EAP)

This government aid program will help provide short-term emergency financial assistance to families in need, so they can address the crisis or emergency. Needs that can be covered include food, rent, utilities, household supplies, transportation, clothing, and medical service.

For more information, call 304-558-0684.

Assistance for Senior Citizens

The West Virginia Department on Aging and Elder Services operates a number of offices and centers across the state. They can help seniors apply for the

Low Income Energy Bill Assistance Program. Applications for this utility bill assistance program may be obtained at local West Virginia Community Action agencies, DHHR offices, or senior centers operated by an Area Agency on Aging.

Emergency Financial Assistance

From time to time, the Salvation Army may have funds to pay for basic needs. Money and case management can help with rent, electric bills, food, medications, and other support for low-income families.



Energy-Saving Tips for Senior Citizens

Older people who spend most of their time at home or live on a fixed income need to watch their energy expenses carefully. It's easy to crank up the heat to a comfortable temperature, but not so easy to pay a big bill later. Following a few simple tips can help seniors save energy, as well as money, on their home electricity, natural gas and water use.

Save on electricity

- Make sure electronics are turned off or unplugged when not in use. Anything with a standby mode is still drawing power even when it appears to be turned off. Instead of unplugging everything, try plugging electronics into a power strip. This makes it easier to cut power to all the devices at once, as you can easily push the switch with your foot rather than reaching down or behind bulky furniture to do so.
- Replace traditional incandescent lightbulbs with energy-efficient light bulbs, such as CFLs. Also, don't get a more powerful bulb than you need; the higher the brightness, the more electricity required. There's no need for a really bright light, except for reading, computer work and kitchen tasks.
- Use the microwave and toaster oven for smaller meals. These appliances use a lot less energy than the stove or oven. Also try making a double batch of your favorite dishes, then freeze the leftovers in individual portions. This saves cooking energy and time.

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Stay warm or cool

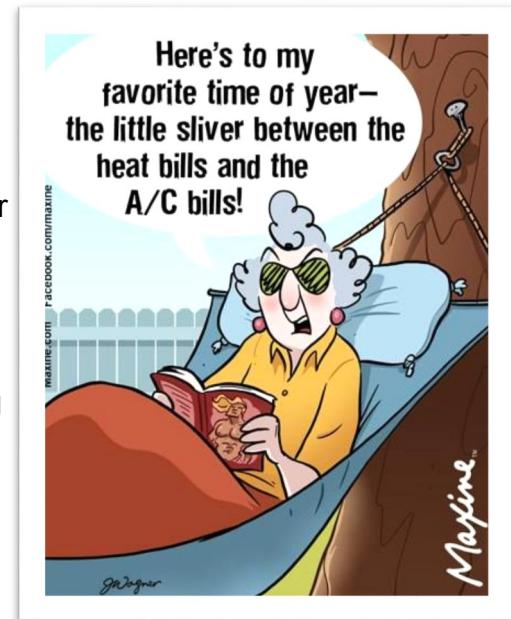
- Move (or enlist an able-bodied relative to help you move) your favorite comfy chair to a sunny window in winter to stay warm. Moving it to a cooler area or under a fan during the summer helps.
- Make sure furniture or drapes aren't covering vents or radiators, blocking air flow. Also make sure heat-generating devices, such as a lamp or TV, are not too close to the thermostat, making it think the house is warmer than it really is. This affects how often the thermostat kicks the heat or air conditioning on.
- Open your curtains on sunny days and close them at night to give your windows more insulation from the cold. Heat leaks out around windows, and heavy curtains can help keep the heat in.
- Place a rolled-up towel at the bottom of a door to reduce drafts and keep heat in a room.
- Seal cracks around outside doors and windows. Add caulk around windows if you see any cracks, and add weather stripping to the bottom of doors. This can reduce uncomfortable drafts and tighten up the house to save on your heating and cooling bills.

Save hot water

- Wear your shirts and pants a couple times before you launder them. Chances are they don't get very dirty during the course of one day. This saves wear and tear on your clothes, as well as energy doing laundry.
- Use cold water to do laundry rather than warm or hot water. Hang up laundry on a clothesline or drying rack rather than using the dryer. If you do toss clothes in the dryer, do one load right after another to reduce heat loss from the dryer.

Save money

- See if you qualify for a senior discount or senior rate for your electricity and/or natural gas supply. If you live in a deregulated area, some retail energy suppliers offer a special rate for those over 60.



All **West Virginia utility companies** offer qualified customers a reduced rate of 20% on their energy bills annually from December - April. To be eligible for this discount, a customer needs to receive Food Stamps, SSI, or WV WORKS, and the applicant must be 60 years of age or older. A potential customer of this energy bill discount must be a recipient of one of these government assistance programs during November, December, January, February, and March in order to get the discount for that month. Call your utility or gas company and reference this discount program. Allegheny Power - 1-800-255-3443. Dominion Hope – If you live in Morgantown, call 304-296-3481; Clarksburg, call 304-623-8600, Fairmont, call 304-363-6300; residents of Parkersburg and all other areas need to call 1-800-688-4673 to apply or learn more.

Appalachian Power - This energy provider operates in West Virginia as well, and they provide services to tens of thousands of families. Customers who are struggling with paying their utility bills should call them right away, before they fall too far behind. Representatives will refer individuals to, and help them apply if need be, to government assistance programs and explore other options such as the Dollar Energy Fund.

The West Virginia Utility Assistance Program, which was created by and is operated by the Dollar Energy Fund, may be able to assist eligible West Virginia utility customers with paying their gas, heating, electric and water bills. If you apply and are eligible for help, customers will receive a one-time cash grant or financial assistance that will be applied directly to your monthly utility bill. Grants are even available to customers who may not be eligible for LIHEAP due to their income or other reasons. Contact your local Salvation Army, community action agency or locate your local intake agency to find out if you're eligible.