

Attachment

FY2026 Heating Assistance Benefit Computation

Step 1 – Community Fuel Points

Heating cost points are assigned to each community in the state, based upon the community's annual fuel cost and climatic conditions.

- If the household primarily uses natural gas for heat, use the community heating cost points for natural gas. If no natural gas points are listed for a specific community, use the points from the nearest community with natural gas on the listing.
- If the household primarily uses self-harvested wood or coal for heat, use the community heating cost points for oil multiplied by 0.5.
- If the household primarily uses purchased wood or coal for heat, use the community heating cost points for oil multiplied by 0.8.
- If the household primarily uses wood pellets for heat, use the community heating cost points for oil multiplied by 0.9.
- If the household primarily uses steam for heat, regardless of how the steam is produced, use the community heating cost points for oil.
- If the household primarily uses electric for heat, use the community heating points for oil.
- If the household primarily uses gasoline to heat their vehicle that has been used as their home for 60+ days, use the community heating points for oil.

Step 2 – Dwelling Type

The Division will multiply the community heating cost points by the first factor listed below that describes the household's dwelling.

1. The factor of 1.4 if the household resides in a mobile home or boat with heated living space of 980 square feet or more.
2. The factor of 0.4 if the household resides in a recreational vehicle, tent, or pickup camper.
3. the factor of 0.15 if the household resides in a one-room dwelling such as a studio apartment, hotel, or boarding home.
4. The factor of 0.35 if the household resides in a mobile home or boat with heated living space less than 980 square feet.
5. The factor of 0.55 if the household resides in a one-bedroom dwelling, or a one-room house or cabin without bedrooms.
6. The factor of 1.3 if the household resides in a three-or-more-bedroom single family, duplex, or triplex home.
7. The factor of 0.7 if the household resides in a two-bedroom unit in an apartment building of four or more attached units or resides in a mobile home with less than 980 square feet of heated living space, regardless of the number of bedrooms.
8. The factor of 1 if the household resides in a two-bedroom single family home, duplex, or triplex home.
9. The factor of 0 if the household is applying for a SRHUD.

A loft counts as one bedroom.

If the household resides in a single residence with one or more households, the heating cost points are reduced to the household's proportionate share of the home heating expenses.

Step 3 – Household Size and Income

The division reviews each household's gross income for the month prior to application. Household members are considered categorically eligible if they have received federally funded assistance from the month prior to the submission of the heating assistance application (HAP 1) through the month in which LIHEAP eligibility is determined. Verification for non-categorical eligible households may be provided through documentary evidence (wage stub, award letter, etc.), DPA and DOL records, or impartial third parties such as fee agents, village council representatives, or social service agencies.

The division will assign each household the following percentage of heating cost points based upon the household's gross monthly income and family size, expressed as a percentage of the Alaska poverty level.

- 100 percent of points if the household's gross monthly income is no more than 25 percent of Alaska's federal poverty level;
- 90 percent of points if the household's gross monthly income is more than 25 percent but no more than 50 percent of Alaska's FPL;
- 80 percent of points if the household's gross monthly income is more than 50 percent but no more than 75 percent of Alaska's FPL;
- 70 percent of points if the household's gross monthly income is more than 75 percent but no more than 100 percent of Alaska's FPL;
- 60 percent of points if the household's gross monthly income is more than 100 percent but no more than 125 percent of Alaska's FPL;
- 50 percent of points if the household's gross monthly income is more than 125 percent of Alaska's FPL but no more than 150 percent.

If the household's gross monthly income exceeds the maximum allowable FPL, the household is not eligible.

Step 4 – Priority Groups

Add one point to the income adjusted heating cost points if the household includes one or more members 60 years of age or older, legally disabled, or under six years of age.

Step 5 – Heating Points of 2.0 or More

Households must have heating cost points of 2.0 or more to be eligible for HAP. If the household's total points compute to less than 2.0, the household is denied as "Limited Heating Points."

Step 6 – Round Points

Round the final total heating cost points to the nearest whole number. The total heating cost points is limited to 35 points.

Step 7 – Multiply by the Benefit Rate to Determine Household Benefit

ECOS will multiply the final heating points by the benefit rate to determine the amount of the household's heating assistance.

Step 8 – Subsidized Housing Adjustment – If Applicable

Households residing in any type of subsidized housing who are responsible for paying all or a portion of their heating costs directly to a vendor and who also receive a utility allowance as part of their housing cost calculation shall have their total benefit reduced by 50 percent, regardless of their utility allowance amount.

Note:

The amount of the HAP grant may be reduced by the amount of the unpaid balance that the household owes the division for previously awarded heating assistance to which the household was not entitled. The division will use this method of recoupment of overpayments only if the household has not responded to the division's request for repayment or the household defaults on its repayment agreement.

The following examples illustrate how a household's heating assistance benefit is determined using a price per point. For the FY 2026 heating assistance season, this rate is \$175 per point.

Example 1

Benefit Calculation:

Step 1.	Community, Fuel	Anchorage, N Gas	5 points
Step 2.	Dwelling	3 bedroom house	5 points x 1.3 = 6.5 points
Step 3.	Household Size, Income	4, \$3,500	100.1-125% of poverty = 60% 6.5 points x 0.6 = 3.9 points
Step 4.	Household includes elderly, disabled or child underage 6	No	N/A
Step 5.	Heating points of 2.0 or more	Yes	3.9 points
Step 6.	Round points		Rounded = 4 points
Step 7.	Multiply by benefit rate		4 points x \$175 = \$700
Step 8.	Subsidized Housing Adjustment	Yes	\$700 x 0.5 = \$350

Example 2

Benefit calculation:

Step 1.	Community, Fuel	Fairbanks, Oil	10 points
Step 2.	Dwelling	2 bedroom, 4+unit bldg	10 points x 0.7 = 7 points
Step 3.	Household Size, Income	2, \$2,700	125.01-150% of poverty = 50% 7 points x 0.5 = 3.5 points
Step 4.	Household includes elderly, disabled or child underage 6	Yes	3.5 points + 1 = 4.5 points
Step 5.	Heating points of 2.0 or more	Yes	4.5 points
Step 6.	Round points		Rounded = 5 points
Step 7.	Multiply by benefit rate		5 points x \$175 = \$875
Step 8.	Subsidized Housing Adjustment	No	\$875 x 1.0 = \$875

Example 3**Benefit calculation:**

Step 1.	Community, Fuel	Savoonga, Oil	27 points
Step 2.	Dwelling	2 bedroom house	No adjustment
Step 3.	Household Size, Income	5, \$2,900	75.01-100% of poverty = 70% 27 points x 0.7 = 18.9 points
Step 4.	Household includes elderly, disabled or child underage 6	Yes	18.9 points + 1 = 19.9 points
Step 5.	Heating points of 2.0 or more	Yes	19.9 points
Step 6.	Round points		Rounded = 20 points
Step 7.	Multiply by benefit rate		20 points x \$175 = \$3,500
Step 8.	Subsidized Housing Adjustment	No	\$3,500 x 1.0 = \$3,500

Example 4**Benefit calculation:**

Step 1.	Community, Fuel	Anchorage, N Gas	5 points
Step 2.	Dwelling	Studio apartment	5 points x 0.15 = 0.75 points
Step 3.	Household Size, Income	1, \$1,900	125.01-150% of poverty = 50% .75 points x 0.5 = 0.375 points
Step 4.	Household includes elderly, disabled or child underage 6	No	N/A
Step 5.	Heating points of 2.0 or more	No	0.375 points = less than 1 point
Step 6.	Round points		N/A
Step 7.	Multiply by benefit rate		Ineligible
Step 8.	Subsidized Housing Adjustment	n/a	n/a