

Dutchess County Office for the Aging's

AGING NEWS

For the week of October 19th

It's a good time to check with your heating vendors regarding any available plans for budget billing, especially since the price of heating fuel has been known to swing considerably in recent years. For Dutchess County older adults who qualify based on income, it's possible to apply for the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). The 2026-27 HEAP benefit is expected to open in New York State on November 2nd.

HEAP may be able to help if you heat your home by any of the following methods: electricity, natural gas, oil, coal, propane, wood or wood pellets, kerosene, or corn.

You could also be eligible for emergency HEAP benefits if you are in danger of running out of fuel or having your utility service shut off. The intent of the

HEAP benefit is only as a one-time supplement to the payment of annual energy costs. It is not a replacement for your regular payment of heating bills.

If You've Been Helped By HEAP Before

If you are 60 or over, approved for HEAP in 2025-26, and not in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance, by now you should have received an application for the 2026-27 heating season from the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. If you haven't already done so, please complete the application and return it to the location printed on the application, so it may be processed in time for heating season.

If You're Wondering About HEAP

New applicants can receive information and/or apply electronically after the HEAP program's official startup date of November 2nd.

You will be able to apply at that time through **mybenefits.ny.gov**, or request an application from the Dutchess County Office for the Aging at **845-486-2555**. You can also call OFA for an appointment for help in filling out HEAP applications.

HEAP benefit levels are based on household size, with maximum gross* monthly incomes starting at \$3,563 for a one-person household. Consult the chart on this page for maximum incomes for larger households.

Two Other HEAP Benefits For Eligible Homeowners

The Heating Equipment Repair and Replacement and the Clean and Tune benefit are both open for the 2026-27 season, while funding lasts.

If you are a homeowner and eligible, the Heating Equipment Repair and Replacement benefit can help you repair or replace your furnace, boiler, and

other direct heating equipment necessary to keep your home's primary heating source working.

Benefit amounts are based on the actual cost incurred to repair or replace your furnace, boiler, and/or other essential heating equipment, up to certain state-established limits.

Before work is started it must be approved and authorized by a HEAP Local District Contact. Payment is made directly to the vendor after all the work is completed.

As for Clean and Tune, eligible households can receive energy efficiency services, which includes the cleaning of primary heating equipment, but may also include chimney cleaning, minor repairs, installation of carbon monoxide detectors or programmable thermostats, if needed, to allow for the safe, proper and efficient operation of the heating equipment. Benefit amounts are based on the actual cost incurred to provide clean and tune services, up to a maximum of \$500. No additional HEAP cash benefits are available.

You may be eligible for a benefit if:

You are the homeowner;

Your household's gross monthly income is at or below the current income guidelines for your household size as posted on the following table;

Your primary heating equipment is more than 12 months old;

Your primary heating equipment or chimney has not been cleaned within the last 12 months; and

You do not have a service contract with your vendor that includes clean and tune services.

2026-27 HEAP Monthly Income Limits

Your total household gross* monthly income for your household size must be at or below the following guidelines:

Household Size	Maximum Gross Monthly Income
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1	\$3,563
2	\$4,659
3	\$5,756
4	\$6,852
5	\$7,948
6	\$9,045
7	\$9,250
8	\$9,456
9	\$9,662
10	\$9,867
<i>Source: NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA)</i>	

* Gross income is your household's total earnings before any subtractions for taxes, benefits, or other deductions.

FREE Veterans Picnic (Saturday 10/17 – sign up ASAP!)

Seats are still available for Saturday's (10/17) free ["Red, White, & You!" Veterans Picnic](#) at James Baird State Park in LaGrangeville. Dutchess County veterans are invited to this great community event and can bring a guest with them. Registration is required and can be completed by calling 845-486-2000 or emailing countyexec@dutchessny.gov. We hope you can join us!

November County Government and OFA Holiday Schedule

The Office for the Aging and Dutchess County Government offices are closed on the following weekdays in November:

- Tuesday, November 3rd – Election Day (New York State public holiday). State and local government offices are also closed.

Note: Many public schools that are used as polling places are also closed on Election Day.

- Wednesday, November 11th – Veterans Day (national holiday)
- Thursday, November 26th – Thanksgiving Day (national holiday)

OFA Friendship Centers are also closed on Friday, November 27th; but the OFA main office in Poughkeepsie will be OPEN that day.

Clients of OFA's Home Delivered Meals program receive shelf-stable meals in advance of each holiday, along with November 27th.

“Mix and Mingle” Registration Now Open (Thu 11/5)

OFA is partnering with County Executive Sue Serino to offer another “Mix & Mingle” event, time time bringing the fun to northern Dutchess County! Since the first “Mix and Mingle” event in May was such a hit, we're hosting a fall edition at the Pavilion at Brookmeade in Rhinebeck (34 Brookmeade Dr.).

Join us for autumnal mocktails, games, and - of course - mingling. This event is for Dutchess County residents 60+, so please register today by calling us at 845-486-2555 during business hours.

Citizens Preparedness Training (Mon 11/9)

Dutchess County Department of Emergency Response, Medical Reserve Corps of Dutchess County, Dutchess County Office for the Aging and the

Town of Fishkill invite Dutchess County residents over age 60 (and their caregivers) to participate in

Citizens Preparedness Training

Monday, November 9th

1:00pm Doors Open

1:30pm Program Begins

Fishkill Town Recreation Department

793 NY 52, Fishkill

- Acquire the tools and resources to better prepare for any type of disaster;
- Learn how to respond accordingly in a disaster, and recover as quickly as possible to pre-disaster conditions;

Each household will receive a free Citizens Preparedness Starter Kit. The event is FREE and open to the public, but space is limited. Preparedness kits are limited to one per household, while supplies last.

Please register in advance by calling the Office for the Aging during business hours: 845-486-2555

“Friendly Calls” Orientations – Dates Added and Updated

Interested in becoming an OFA “Friendly Calls” volunteer caller? We have a volunteer orientation opportunity available at the OFA main office at 114 Delafield St. in Poughkeepsie:

Monday, October 26th – 10am

(UPDATED) Monday, November 9th, 23rd or 30th – 10am

To reserve your seat, call OFA during business hours at 845-486-2555.

More OFA Events Near You

To register for any of the events below, contact OFA during business hours at 845-486-2555 unless a different contact method is indicated.

October:

(Tuesday) 20th – OFA Mobile Office Hours, Admiral Halsey Senior Village, 135 Main St., Poughkeepsie, 1-3 pm

(Wednesday) 21st – Navigating Medicare, Poughkeepsie Galleria

Community Room, 10 am

(Wednesday) 21st – Navigating Medicare, Stanford Free Library (6035 NY

82, Stanfordville), 2pm – call the library at 845-868-1341

(Thursday) 22nd – OFA Mobile Office Hours, Beacon OFA Friendship

Center, 1 Forrestal Heights, 9:30a-noon

(Thursday) 22nd – OFA Mobile Office Hours, Wappingers Town Hall, 1-4p

(Friday) 23rd – Navigating Medicare, Millbrook Library (3 Friendly Ln.),

3:00pm (845-677-3611)

(Monday) 26th – OFA Mobile Office Hours, East Fishkill OFA Friendship

Center, 890 NY 82, Hopewell Junction, 9-11 am

(Thursday) 29th – OFA Mobile Office Hours, Amenia Library, 3309 NY

343, Amenia, 12-3 pm

November:

(Monday) 9th – Navigating Medicare, Adriaance Library, 93 Market St.,

Poughkeepsie (parking on Noxon St.) – 845-485-3445 x3380

(Tuesday) 10th – OFA Mobile Office Hours, Clinton Library, 1215 Centre Rd., Rhinebeck, 10a – 2p

(Wednesday) 11th – Navigating Medicare, Starr Library, Rhinebeck, 4pm
(NOTE: OFA is closed for Veterans Day on the 11th but the library is OPEN)

(Thursday) 12th – Caregiving Workshop, with AARP New York and Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino, East Fishkill OFA Friendship Center, 890 NY 82, Hopewell Junction, 10:30am. [Use this link to sign up](#), or call AARP at 518-447-6711.

See www.dutchessny.gov/calendar for a full listing of all Dutchess County Government events.

Stissing Theatre Guild Presents “The 39 Steps” (with senior discount)

The Stissing Theatre Guild, Inc. at Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School, 2829 W Church St, Pine Plains, NY is proud to present ***The 39 Steps*** on Friday, November 13 at 7pm; Saturday, November 14 at 7 pm, and Sunday, November 15 at 2 pm.

The 39 Steps is a fast-paced, high-energy farce that swaps classic spy suspense for chaotic comedy. It is a delightfully funny homage to the Hitchcock film from 1935. To order tickets go online to stissingtheatreguild.org or www.seatyourself.biz/stgboxoffice or call the Stissing Theatre Guild Box Office at 518-398-1272 Ticket prices are \$15 for adults & \$13 for students and seniors (62+).

November Holiday Hours

The Office for the Aging and OFA Friendship Centers will be closed on the following holidays in November:

Tuesday 11/3 – Election Day (New York State public holiday)

Wednesday 11/11 – Veterans Day (national holiday)

Thursday 11/26 – Thanksgiving (national holiday)

OFA Friendship Centers will also be closed on Friday, November 27th.

The OFA office in Poughkeepsie will be open that day on a regular schedule.

Other news:

In case you missed it: the Social Security Administration this week announced that [the 2027 Social Security cost of living adjustment will be 3.6%](#), or about \$75 a month for the average monthly Social Security payment.

[Medicare scams are showing up in paid search results](#). How to avoid this?

Reach out to OFA for Medicare open enrollment season help.

Don't "feel like yourself" on some days? Ask your doctor if it might be a [vitamin](#) issue.

It's getting harder to spot fake photos made by artificial intelligence (AI). [Take a look](#).

This week's birthdays:

10/17: Singer-songwriter, actor and director [Michael McKean](#) (79)

10/18: Trumpet player, composer and educator [Wynton Marsalis](#) (65)

10/19: Actress/singer [Jennifer Holliday](#) (66)

10/20: Baseball Hall of Famer [Juan Marichal](#) (89)

10/21: Musician [Manfred Mann](#) (86)

10/22: Actress/singer [Catherine Deneuve](#) (83)

10/23: Singer/songwriter/actor [Dwight Yoakam](#) (70)

You've been waiting for a Bad Joke all week, haven't you?

I threw a boomerang a few years ago. I now live in constant fear.