

Low Income Energy Assistance Program

LIEAP is a federally funded program, with eligibility based on household income and number of household members.

There are other related program that may help you with home heating costs.

It is not the only program designed to help with home heating but it is a major one. Here are the parameters to the LIEAP:

Household Members	Monthly Income	Annual Income
1	\$1,893	\$22,710
2	\$2,475	\$29,698
3	\$3,057	\$36,685
4	\$3,639	\$43,673
5	\$4,222	\$50,660
6	\$4,804	\$57,648

Eligibility continues up to a family size of 15 with an annual gross income of \$69,440. The window for applying for the program is October 1 - February 28.

LIEAP application forms are available online at <http://dfsweb.state.wy.us/> or at DFS local offices, senior centers and Cheyenne Light, Fuel & Power. If an applicant would like a form sent them or have any other questions, they can call 1-800-246-4221.

Completed applications can be mailed to LIEAP, P.O. Box, Cheyenne WY 82003-0827 or fax'd to 307-777-6969.

- To apply for LIEAP, mail or fax:
1. Proof of your income for the last three months;
 2. Copy of your most recent home heating bill;
 3. Copies of an ID for every person living in your household;
 4. Proof you pay or receive child support if you have children for the last three months; and
 5. Completed and signed application.

Crisis Assistance: Available for households facing an emergency home heating situation, including life or health-threatening situations. The program's maximum benefit is \$600 and can help cover utility hookup deposits and/or back bills to prevent a shut off. Funds also are available to buy replacement furnaces. Payment is made directly to the fuel provider.

Weatherization Assistance is a service that seals air leaks, tunes up furnaces, adds insulation, and sometimes will replace appliances. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy and was expanded under the Economic Stimulus Act, which allows for up to \$6,500 to be spent winterizing a home - whether you own or rent. Income eligibility is the same as LIEAP. The LIEAP application form is also used to determine eligibility for Weatherization Assistance.

Black Hills Corporation, owner of Cheyenne Light, Fuel & Power, offers these energy-saving suggestions, among others:

- Turn thermostat down to 68° - 64° when sleeping or no one is home. Install a programmable thermostat.
- Change furnace filters on schedule.
- Take showers, not baths. A 5-minute shower uses half the water as a bath.
- Wash full loads of laundry and use cold water whenever possible.
- Allow sunlight in during the day by opening shades and blinds.
- Use fluorescent lamps.
- Seal windows to reduce heat loss.

Albin school property

One of the many negatives, and there are many, of having the State dictate new school construction, design, size, amenities, etc., is having the State dictate.

Communities don't have the same stake and pride in their schools that they once had. With little to no say in size, cost, design or amenities, local parents and grandparents have been disenfranchised.

School construction should be a local issue, not a State mandate.

Not that public education hasn't diminished under local control but chances are better that a local community will know what they want in terms of public education (within State parameters) and school construction. To allow a group of State employees based in Cheyenne to determine what a new school in Wright or Pinedale should be is crazy.

In the interest of full disclosure, I have fully supported efforts of the Albin community in terms of holding onto their schools and then creating a charter school in Albin. I attended the final graduation ceremonies there when 11 seniors graduated in front of about 350 attendees. I have twice been moderator for school board trustees' forums when the event was held in Albin. I consider Albin, Wyoming, to be my adopted hometown. I am not unbiased on this subject.

But, that's the way it is in Wyoming now.

Local communities may like the idea that they won't be asked to pay higher property taxes to build a new school - and that they can demand a new school long before the need arises - but, over time, they will rue the loss of control and even their reduced influence.

The latest salvo fired at these committed and determined people of Albin is that the State, simultaneous to "improving" existing facilities in Albin, were making plans to demolish the very building(s) into which hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars were being invested.

A few years ago, the Laramie County School District 2 board of trustees panicked over declining future revenues and voted to close the best schools in the district - the Albin High School and Albin Junior High. In every measurable yardstick, Albin had the best schools in the county. Not just in the rural east county area but in the entire county, including Cheyenne schools. The deciding vote was cast by a board member who had not sought the seat - had not filed for the office - but arranged adequate write-in votes to win the seat at the election.

Then, to prove how little the decision-makers know about school size or amenities, they used a formula to determine that a school with enrollment as small as Albin - as though the locals had anything to do with the decimated enrollment - should have ~8,600 sq. ft. of total space.

Then, to protect their turf, the board of trustees would not approve the creation of a charter school in Albin. Based on the successful history of public education in Albin, the board knew that such an option in Albin would draw down the other school's enrollment in Albin, Burns and Pine Bluffs (possibly Carpenter but less likely) and embarrass the school district as a whole. Perhaps even jeopardize its survival when faced with a group providing better education at a lower cost.

It's as though the State doesn't understand - or won't accept - that every school, regardless of enrollment, needs certain amenities. Those would include a cafeteria, gymnasium and library.

A regulation basketball court is 84' long x 50' wide. That's just the playing surface. Bleachers and the out-of-bounds area under each basket are variable. A gym by itself would have to be 5,000-6,000 sq. ft. And those yahoos think a total school size, because of poor decisions that forced Albin enrollment down to fewer than 50 students, should be ~8,600 sf?

So, Albin has had to be satisfied with an elementary school that feeds students and athletes into several junior and senior high schools in the region, including Burns, Pine Bluffs, Southeast and Cheyenne. For parents to send their children to any junior or senior high school outside the boundary of LCSD2, they have to provide their own transportation.

But, wait, they say! There is an adjacent community center with a basketball court. Use it. That is a community center. Say there was an adjacent YMCA. Would these State characters tell a school to prevail upon the Y to allow almost full-time use of their privately-funded facility for the school children? Of course not. The Albin Community Center (gym floor) has many uses. It cannot be used to replace the school's gymnasium. And should not even be considered for such.

The State Legislature provides lip service to the issue of allowing more charter schools to form in Wyoming. But the public school lobby (not that a charter school is not a public school - it is but is run differently) is strong and they fear the competition that would almost certainly come from approving charter schools. So, the Legislature pretends to support the notion of better public school education in Wyoming but does nothing to bring it about. And is it a coincidence or not that the decline in Wyoming ACT scores matches with the State taking control of capital construction of new schools?

This whole decision-making process is idiotic. Other bureaucrats did their best to destroy the best school program in Laramie County and now that's not enough. To drive a final stake, another group of bureaucrats decided that a fine school, one of the best "feeder" programs in the area, should not even have its own gym. Come on, Rich, not everyone wants to be a rodeo cowboy. There are many more young students who want to be team sport athletes - basketball and volleyball - that can't be played in a rodeo arena. Turn over the facilities to the Town of Albin and get the hell out of Dodge. Leave these folks alone. Don't damage this valuable little community any further.

5621 Sycamore Rd.
 Lovely brick home with nice floor plan with living room, family room, 3 bedrooms and laundry all on main level. Hardwood floors, new windows on main level, updated eat-in kitchen, separate dining room or den, large laundry room and see through fireplace. Oversized 2-car attached garage, roof is only 3 years old, new porch and patio and block type fence in back, all on large corner lot.

\$217,000



Very close to high, junior and grade schools. Frontier Mall is about 5 minutes away. \$217,000

wesellcheyennehomes.com
 802 E. Lincolnway -- 634-2997
 Cheyenne, Wyoming

Assist2Sell
 "Full Service with Savings!"

WOODHOUSE RODEN Law Firm

1912 Capitol Ave., Suite 500
American National Bank Bldg, Fifth Floor

WE'VE MOVED! 432-9399 – FAX 432-7522

GayWoodhouseLaw@aol.com

"Advocating for your legal rights."

www.gaywoodhouse.com



The Wyoming State Bar does not certify any lawyer as a specialist or expert. Anyone considering a lawyer should independently investigate the lawyer's credentials and ability, and not rely upon advertisements or self-proclaimed expertise.