

# THE MASSACHUSETTS Good Neighbor Energy Fund

GIVE THE GIFT OF WARMTH



- The Good Neighbor Energy Fund is available to any Massachusetts resident who, due to temporary crisis, cannot meet a month's energy expense and is not eligible for state of federal assistance.
- Last year, the Good Neighbor Energy Fund helped more than 1,575 households pay an electric, gas or oil bill.
- Since 1985, the Fund has raised more than \$24.5 million and assisted over 94,850 households in need.
- Sponsoring gas, electric and oil companies support their respective customers' generosity through various giving programs.
- To qualify for assistance from the Good Neighbor Energy Fund, an applicant's gross household income must fall between 60 and 80 percent of the state's median income levels.
- Households with a fairly broad income level are eligible for the Fund. For example, a household of four can have a total gross yearly income of between \$87,294 and \$116,392 to qualify.
- This year's maximum disbursement is \$400 per eligible household per heating season.

## 39th Annual Kickoff Launches 2023-2024 Campaign

Anticipating another year of helping thousands of households in need of energy assistance across the Commonwealth, the Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund held its annual breakfast on November 15, 2023 to kick-off its "Give the Gift of Warmth" campaign.

The breakfast event served as the official start of the 2023-2024 campaign and was hosted by long-time sponsor, North Attleborough Electric Department. Peter Schiffman, General Manager at North Attleborough Electric, welcomed attendees and thanked the 19 utilities across the state for their sponsorship of the Fund, as well as The Salvation Army which administers the Fund. He also emphasized that he was confident the fundraising goal of \$500,000 could be exceeded due to the Fund's successful history and the obvious dedication of the event's attendees.

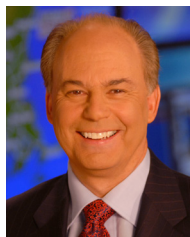
"The high costs for necessities like food and rent present a challenge for this year's campaign but I know the good work of the Fund will continue and the need will be met," said Schiffman. "The key barometer as to the effectiveness of the Fund each year is the difference it makes in the lives of families in temporary crisis throughout the state. I'm proud to say the Fund provided warmth to more than 1,575 families last year!"



**Peter Schiffman**  
General Manager  
N. Attleborough  
Electric Dept.



**Elizabeth Mahony**  
Commissioner  
MA Department of  
Energy Resources



**Harvey Leonard**  
Chief Meteorologist  
Emeritus  
WCVB-TV 5 Boston

Elizabeth Mahony, Commissioner of the Department of Energy Resources, was a featured speaker at the breakfast. She provided an update on the state's initiatives and shared her support of the Fund. Harvey Leonard, Chief Meteorologist Emeritus at WCVB-TV5 Boston, was back by popular demand to predict the upcoming winter weather and its potential impact on the urgency of need.

Other speakers at the breakfast included Major Everett Henry, Divisional Commander of The Salvation Army, who provided insight into the vital role the GNEF plays across the state, and Marie McCabe, Chairperson of the GNEF and Customer Service Representative at North Attleborough Electric.



**Major Everett Henry**  
Divisional Commander  
The Salvation Army

Although many of the Fund's sponsoring energy companies provide a donation at various points throughout the year, Eversource Energy presented its grant at the end of the breakfast to ensure that eligible families in need may be helped as soon as possible.

"Since its start in 1985, the Fund has helped more than 94,850 households stay warm here in Massachusetts," Schiffman concluded. "Let's all remain focused so the Fund can continue to make a positive impact on families who find themselves going through a rough patch and in need of energy assistance this winter and throughout the year."

## Do You Qualify?

The GNEF's 2023-24 income eligibility guidelines are as follows:

Household Size	Total Gross Yearly Income
1	\$45,392 - \$60,523
2	\$59,359 - \$79,145
3	\$73,326 - \$97,768
4	\$87,294 - \$116,392
5	\$101,261 - \$135,015
6	\$115,228 - \$153,637
7	\$117,846 - \$157,128
8	\$120,465 - \$160,620

## Thank You GNEF Sponsors

Ashburnham Municipal Light

Belmont Municipal Light

Berkshire Gas

Braintree Electric Light Dept.

Eversource Energy

Groton Electric Light

Holyoke Gas & Electric

Liberty

Littleton Electric Light

Merrimac Municipal Light Dept.

National Grid

North Attleborough Electric Dept.

Petro Home Services

Reading Municipal Light

Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant

Unitil/Fitchburg Gas & Electric

Wakefield Municipal Gas & Light

Wellesley Municipal Light Plant

Westfield Gas & Electric

## GNEF Sets Goal to Meet Anticipated Need

Massachusetts residents' support of their neighbors in need was evident during last year's campaign as the Fund surpassed its fundraising goal and assisted more than 1,575 households.

even when the weather warms up. The need is year-round.

To make a donation, please look for the green Good Neighbor donation envelope provided with your utility bill, take advantage of some companies' "add a dollar" program whereby customers are asked to contribute a dollar of more on their utility bills or simply visit [www.magoodneighbor.org](http://www.magoodneighbor.org).

Also, those that are in need can visit the local Salvation Army Community Center's throughout the state.



The Fund's goal for 2023-2024 has been set at \$500,000. It is anticipated that the money raised will help provide energy assistance to more than 1,500 Massachusetts families this winter season and throughout the spring. The Salvation Army, which administers the Fund, is already beginning to see a rise in the number of inquiries from families in need. In fact, the Fund expects to receive thousands of requests for aid this winter alone.

And the need doesn't end with the cold weather. Families in temporary crisis also request assistance with their energy bills

### For more information, call:

#### Eastern Massachusetts

1-800-334-3047

(Serving Area Codes 508, 617, 781 & 978)

#### Western Massachusetts:

1-800-262-1320

(Serving Area Code 413)

### You may also visit:

[www.magoodneighbor.org](http://www.magoodneighbor.org)

## Give The Gift of Warmth

A note received by The Salvation Army

