



# Closing Maine's Electricity Affordability Gap

LD 995: A Meaningful Solution for Low-Income Mainers

[www.maine.gov/meopa/](http://www.maine.gov/meopa/)

## At Least 48,000 Households Need Support

We anticipate the new DHHS SupportLink program will add at least 4,400 new participants, bringing total enrollment in the Low Income Assistance Program (LIAP) to 48,000 households. LIAP offers a monthly percentage discount off the participant's total electric bill.

## Electricity Burden Should Be No More Than 4% of Household Income

National experts recommend that, to achieve affordability, households should spend no more than 4% of their income on electricity. If the household is heating with heat pumps, that threshold rises to 6%.

## Statewide Average Annual Electric Bill at January 2026 Rates: \$1,929

Given that the average annual residential electric bill in Maine is now almost \$2,000, low-income households need between \$762 and \$1,612 in annual support to make their bills affordable.

Annual Support Needed to Achieve Affordability (%FPL)	0% - 75%	\$1,612
	76% - 100%	\$1,185
	101% - 125%	\$973
	126% - 150%	\$762

## The Problem

### 2026-27 LIAP Funding Gap of \$18,730,278

The current funding sources for LIAP will provide \$33 million in funding to qualifying households—nearly \$19 million short of the affordability target.

- Ratepayer surcharge (~\$32M in 2026-27), or approximately \$2 per month per customer
- NECEC funding (\$1.25M per year)
- Monetized expired Net Energy Billing credits (less than \$1M per year)

PUC Approved 2026-27 LIAP Funding	\$33,000,000
Cost to Bring Current Participants to 4% of Income Affordability Target	\$47,030,221
Cost to Bring New Additional Participants to 4% of Income Affordability Target	\$4,700,056
Total Funding Required	\$51,730,278
Funding Gap	\$18,730, 278

## The Solution: LD 995

### \$15-18M in baseline General Fund funding plus ratepayer and other sources to fully fund the need.

- \$15 million for LIAP
- Sitting on the Table
- Bipartisan support out of EUT (12-1)
- Passed both Houses with big majorities