

# 2021 - 2022

## Louisiana Neighbor to Neighbor Program

The **Neighbor to Neighbor Program**, which is a Hardship Program administered by Dollar Energy Fund, assists eligible utility customers with their **SWEPCO** electric bills. Customers may be eligible to receive a grant that's applied directly to their utility bill. Our program is a fund of last resort because it goes above and beyond what is available through federal, state and other programs. **Program guidelines and eligibility requirements are subject to change.**

### Program Dates:

Open from **October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022**, for services that are **off or in threat of termination**.

Grants are dispersed on a first come, first serve basis to eligible applicants while funding is available.

### Sincere Effort of Payment:

Applicants must have paid at least **\$100** on their SWEPCO account in the three months prior to applying for a grant.

**Senior Citizens**, age 62 and over, must have paid **\$75** on their accounts in the three months prior to applying for a grant.

Pledges made on an applicant's behalf and other grants cannot be counted toward the sincere effort of payment. Exceptions may be made in cases of extreme hardships.

### Balance Requirement:

Applicants must have an outstanding balance on their SWEPCO bill of at least **\$50**.

### Maximum Grant:

The maximum grant amount an applicant may receive is **\$200**.

Applicants can only receive one grant per utility, per program year. **(10/1/2021 – 9/30/2022)**

Grant awards are based on need and each family's circumstances are different. Grant amounts are determined on a case-to-case basis.

If a customer's utility service is off or in threat of termination when they apply and the maximum grant amount will not restore service or stop termination, the application will be denied. The amount needed to restore service or stop a termination is determined by utility review. Notification will be sent to the customer advising them that their application was denied and that an additional payment is required in order to be considered for assistance.

### Additional Guidelines:

- All applicants must provide verification of income.
- Income-eligible clients must apply for all federally-funded programs when those programs are open.
- Account must be residential, single home or apartment. No "cooking only", commercial, industrial, or apartments with shared utility service.
- Name on account must be that of an adult who is currently living in the home.
- Dollar Energy Fund grants cannot be used to cover security deposits or reconnection fees.

### Income Guidelines:

Total gross household income must be at or below **150%** of the **2022 Federal Poverty Income Guidelines\*** as shown in the chart below.

Household Size	150% Monthly	150% Yearly
1	\$1,699	\$20,385
2	\$2,289	\$27,465
3	\$2,879	\$34,545
4	\$3,469	\$41,625
5	\$4,059	\$48,705
6	\$4,649	\$55,785
7	\$5,239	\$62,865
8	\$5,829	\$69,945
Each add'l add	\$590	\$7,080

*\*The 2022 Federal Poverty Income Guidelines took effect on February 1, 2022 and will remain in effect for the remainder of the program year.*

### How to Apply:

The best way to start seeking help is by **calling your utility company**, who will provide you with information on a number of different assistance programs that are available to help low-income utility customers.

**SWEPSCO: 1-888-216-3523**

The Neighbor to Neighbor Program also partners with a network of Community Based Organizations. These dedicated agencies provide application intake services for clients. Find an agency in your area with Dollar Energy Fund's [Agency Finder](#).

Visit [www.dollarenergy.org/need-help/Louisiana](http://www.dollarenergy.org/need-help/Louisiana) to learn more about Dollar Energy Fund.

### How Can You Help?

**Dollar Energy Fund is a private non-profit organization** that relies on the generosity of individual donors to fulfill its mission. Every dollar donated to the Hardship Program will be matched by our utility partners. These matching funds and 100% of your donation will assist limited-income families residing in Louisiana afford utility service. Give to Dollar Energy Fund by:

- Donating through your monthly utility bill; or
- Giving online at [www.dollarenergy.org/donate](http://www.dollarenergy.org/donate).

Visit [www.dollarenergy.org](http://www.dollarenergy.org) to learn more.