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## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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### COVID-19 — Residential Utility Disruption Prevention Program

**Residential Utility Disruption Prevention Program.** Governor Reynolds and the [Iowa Economic Development Authority \(IEDA\)](#) today announced the launch of the new [Residential Utility Disruption Prevention Program](#). The Program will provide eligible households with up to \$2,000 toward electric, natural gas, and water bills if they are at risk of disconnection due to an inability to pay because of a COVID-19 related loss of income. Payments through the Program will be made directly to utility providers and applied to the applicant's account.

**Background and Eligibility.** Iowa allocated approximately \$14.5 million of federal [CARES Act](#) funds for utility assistance programs (the [Small Business Utility Disruption Prevention Program](#) launched in mid-July). To be eligible to receive assistance, a residential electric, natural gas, and/or water utility customer must have:

- A primary Iowa residence with active residential utility accounts. Renters may apply as long as the utility account is in the applicant's name.
- An unpaid utility bill balance or have previously entered into a payment plan with their utility provider.
- An annual income that is 80.0% of the median family income, based on county and household size.
- Experienced a COVID-19 loss of income (job loss, reduction in hours, reduction in pay) on or after March 17, 2020, that resulted in hardship in paying bills for electric, natural gas, and/or water utility service provided between March 17, 2020, and October 31, 2020.

**Application Information.** For a full list of eligibility requirements, additional information, and to apply, visit [iowahousingrecovery.com](#). Applications will be accepted between October 8, 2020, and November 20, 2020, or until funding is depleted, whichever comes first. Assistance will be awarded based on application completeness and eligibility in the order received until all funds have been exhausted.

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