



Freedom Heating Assistance Fund Policy

Freedom's Heating Assistance Fund was initiated in 2023 when the Beaver Ridge Wind Company started making annual donations to the town for use by residents who need help with obtaining heating fuel but would not qualify for Waldo County Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) or General Assistance (GA) through Freedom.

The application requirements for Freedom's Heating Assistance Fund are less stringent than those required for the other programs. The Fund is intended to help a resident who does not qualify for HEAP or GA but who is experiencing a temporary difficulty with paying for heating fuel due to being laid off temporarily, an extended illness and missing work, large unexpected house repairs, vehicles breaking down, etc. Applications can be verbal with the applicant discussing the reasons for the need with the GA Administrator. Applications will be kept confidential and will be considered by the Select Board as a whole in executive session consistent with 1 MRSA 405 (6) F: discussion of confidential records. The GA Administrator will write up a case note that is a description of the situation, the Select Board's decision about the application, and whatever action is taken. The confidential case note will be kept in hard copy with the General Assistance files in the Town Office. If the application is approved, the assistance will be for 100 gallons of oil or one cord of wood or the equivalent in natural gas or electricity depending on the resident's heating appliance and will be paid directly to the energy supplier.

If the resident's need appears to be an emergency or to be ongoing, the GA Administrator will discuss the other two heat energy assistance programs to see if either might be more appropriate.

Action	Date	Select Board Signatories (signature, printed name)
Adopted	2/2/26	<i>Laura Creelley</i>
		<i>Richard</i>
		<i>Gene Queller</i>