



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Michigan residents can apply for Home Heating Tax Credit until September 30**

*State funds from this credit reduce heating bills of qualified Michigan renters, homeowners*

LANSING, Mich. – Tax credits are not just for tax season. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is partnering with the [Community Economic Development Association of Michigan](#) (CEDAM) to encourage qualified Michigan residents to apply for the Home Heating Credit before the Monday, Sept. 30 deadline.

“The Home Heating Credit helps Michigan families stay warm and can offset rising energy costs,” said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. “We urge Michiganders to apply for this credit so that they can get money back in their pockets to keep the heat on and spend their hard-earned paychecks to put food on the table and pay the bills. At the state level, we will continue working together to ensure every Michigan family has the opportunity to save money and thrive.”

This year, the average qualifying household received \$180 in assistance, which is most often applied directly to residents’ utility bills. Some energy providers automatically provide claimants a residential income assistance credit worth up to \$20 monthly. Additionally, food assistance recipients receiving a Home Heating Credit of over \$20 may be eligible for increased benefits.

“We encourage Michigan families to claim their Home Heating Credit by the September 30 deadline,” MDHHS Director Elizabeth Hertel said. “Residents must claim it by the deadline, or they will not be eligible and will miss out on the opportunity to receive this credit which could help pay for their utility bills during the colder months.”

To qualify, Michigan residents must be either a renter with a contracted lease or a homeowner and meet [income requirements](#). The best way to apply for the Home Heating Credit, and a number of other tax credits available to Michigan residents, is through one of the state's trusted, free tax preparation services.

Free tax preparation is a community service designed to help Michiganders improve their financial well-being. Persons with disabilities, limited English-speaking ability, and those who earn less than \$64,000 annually are qualified to use these services. Tax preparation providers are trained and certified volunteers.

“Although the temperatures may be warm now, the fall heating season is a few months away,” said State Treasurer Rachael Eubanks. “The Home Heating Credit can help with heating bills,

allowing individuals and families to spend their hard-earned dollars on other necessities. Local free tax preparation can help taxpayers navigate the paperwork to receive this very important credit and other credits. Please don't hesitate to seek out voluntary assistance if you think you're eligible."

Residents can connect with their local free tax preparation site by calling 211 or visiting [MichiganFreeTaxHelp.org](http://MichiganFreeTaxHelp.org). Local human services nonprofits, such as United Way and Community Action Agency, can also refer community members to a free tax preparation site.

"Filing a tax return isn't solely about individual returns; it's an investment in our communities," said Luke Forrest, CEDAM executive director. "Every dollar claimed and refunded helps strengthen our local economies. By filing, individuals can access vital resources and support the services that benefit everyone."

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