

## **ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

1. **Affordable Housing Alliance (AHA)** has a website ([www.njpoweron.org](http://www.njpoweron.org)) that offers the public financial assistance with the following:
  - A. **Low Income Home Energy (LIHEAP)**: Helps low-income customers pay their heating and cooling bills.
  - B. **Payment Assistance for Gas & Electric (PAGE)**: State funded utility assistance program designed to help low to moderate income customers pay their bills.
  - C. **ACE Helping Hands**: Partnership between ACE/AHA to provide ACE customers (fallen behind on their bill) up to \$200.00, within a 12-month period.
  - D. **Homebuyer Programs**: Housing Counseling and Assistance Programs for first-time home buyers.
  - E. **Homeowner Programs**: The AHA assists homeowners who are looking for solutions that allow them to maintain ownership of their home.
2. **NJ Shares**: a non-profit organization that provides financial assistance to people with overdue energy, telephone, broadband (internet), and water bills.
3. **Lifeline Utility Assistance**: A program that offers an annual benefit to people who meet the PAAD (Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged & Disabled) eligibility requirements or who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI). This includes utility customers as well as tenants whose utility bills are included in their rent. There are three options:
  - A. **Lifeline Credit Program**: provides a \$225.00 annually in the form of a credit on electric and gas utility bills for eligible beneficiaries.

- B. **Tenants Lifeline Assistance Program**: provides a \$225.00 annually in the form of a check to eligible tenants who have the cost of gas and electric utilities included in their rent.
  
- C. **Special Utility Supplemental**: provides a supplement of up to \$18.75 a month to recipients of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) in place of a Lifeline Utility credit or Tenants Lifeline Assistance payment. Applicants can apply on line ([www.aging.nj.gov](http://www.aging.nj.gov)), on paper (most pharmacies participate) and by calling 800-792-9745.

\*All programs have Spanish translators ready to assist the public\*