

Help Your Patients Beat the Heat with HEAP

What is HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program)?

HEAP is a city-wide benefit that can provide funds to pay for heating, electricity, and air conditioning units for qualifying New Yorkers. **Eligible residents must meet both income and medical criteria to qualify.**

- 1) Most Medicaid patients or patients on SNAP would qualify based on income.
- 2) Patients over the age of 60, with young children (less than or equal to 6 years old) in the home, and/or patients with a medical condition such as asthma or COPD would qualify medically.

Why does it matter?

Extreme heat can be deadly for vulnerable populations, including the elderly, young children, and pregnant patients. Certain medical conditions, including asthma and COPD, can be exacerbated by heat exposure. With climate change, heat waves are becoming more and more common, and heat-related fatalities have increased. Access to AC can be lifesaving, but many patients cannot afford it.

The HEAP benefit also has a heating component that is important for cold months.

How can you help?

- 1) Ask patients with COPD, Asthma, or other at risk patients if they need assistance with affording air conditioners OR electricity bills
- 2) Refer your patients to REAP to get assistance in applying
 - a) Amb Ref to Social Worker: In comments write "REAP referral for HEAP application".
- 3) Use this template (**AIR CONDITIONER BENEFIT LETTER**) to write a letter of necessity for the patient's application
- 4) Use the following dot phrases in your AVS to
 - a) Share information with patients on how to complete the application: (.coolingassistance OR .coolingassistancespanish)
 - b) Share information with patients on how heat can worsen respiratory conditions (.heatandasthma OR .heatandasthmaspanish)