



## Home Efficiency and Appliances Rebate (HEAR) Program

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### What are the Home Energy Rebates?

The Home Energy Rebates will provide Americans with deep discounts on household upgrade purchases that can lower monthly utility bills. In Rhode Island you can use the rebates to get discounts on eligible ENERGY STAR appliances, electrical wiring work, and electric load service center.

For more information on the eligible rebate products, income restrictions, and how to apply visit OER’s Home Energy Rebates webpage at – <https://energy.ri.gov/energy-incentives/home-energy-rebate-program>

These rebates are available thanks to the landmark Inflation Reduction Act.

#### When does the HEAR program launch?

The income eligible rebate pathway will launch September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, with the CAP Agencies. The moderate-income pathway is expected launch in 2025. The HEAR program will run until September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2031, or until the program funds run out.

#### What can the HEAR rebate be used for and how much money can I save?

The following rebates will be offered to low- and moderate-income residents:

Product	Low-income rebate	Moderate-income rebate
Electric Wiring	\$2,500	\$1,250
Electric Load Service Center	\$4,000	\$2,000
ENERGY STAR Heat Pump Clothes Dryer	\$1,840	\$420
ENERGY STAR Electric Stove or Induction Cooktop		

#### Who is eligible for the rebates?

Low- and moderate-income households can participate in the program. The income thresholds are determined by Area Median Income (AMI). Below is an illustrative table of the low- and moderate-income thresholds for a family of four in Rhode Island as of 2024. For more information on income eligibility visit OER’s Home Energy Rebates webpage.

Jurisdiction	Family of Four 80% AMI Threshold (low-income)	Family of Four 150% AMI Threshold (moderate-income)
Bristol County	\$89,900	\$168,600
Little Compton, Jamestown, Tiverton	\$89,900	\$168,600



Middletown, Newport, Portsmouth	\$104,100	\$198,450
Providence County	\$89,900	\$168,600
Charlestown, Exeter, Richmond, North Kingstown, South Kingstown, Narragansett	\$89,900	\$168,600
Hopkinton, Westerly, New Shoreham	\$94,250	\$176,700

**How do I figure out which of these upgrades would make sense for my home?**

If you are not sure what makes sense for your home, consider getting a no cost home energy audit from Rhode Island Energy or a Community Action Agency (CAP). This assessment should give you a good list of potential projects and upgrades that may be eligible for rebates and federal tax credits. All customers served by a CAP for the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) will have a home energy assessment completed, during which a CAP energy auditor can help the household apply for a HEAR rebate.

**Are multifamily households and renters eligible for the HEAR rebate?**

Yes, multifamily households and renters can receive a HEAR rebate. Landlords will be required to sign a Landlord Agreement Form before a HEAR rebate is distributed. For a multifamily building to qualify as low-income and receive the maximum rebate amount, at least half of the occupied units must meet the low-income definition.

**How do I become a qualified contractor for the HEAR program?**

If you are a registered electrician or plumber with the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training (DLT) you can apply to become a qualified contractor. OER is looking for electricians and plumbers to assist in the installation of eligible rebates. For more information on how to apply to become a qualified contractor visit OER’s Home Energy Rebates webpage.

**Are contractors eligible for HEAR incentives?**

Yes, qualified electricians that complete an electric load service center upgrade and/or wiring work in a household that has been approved for the HEAR rebate(s) are eligible for an additional incentive. The HEAR incentives are as follows:

<b>Qualifying Activity:</b>	<b>Incentive:</b>
Installation of one or more electric load service center	\$150
Installation of electric wiring per dwelling unit	\$250