

Turning Over Stones

In Grey Bruce

211 is a terrific resource for finding programs in our community to help with the day to day challenges. However, just to lend a little insight into what you might be missing, here is a start on some of the more vital and most used programs in Grey Bruce. **THESE PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE ONLY TO HOUSEHOLDS THAT FIT THE LOW INCOME CRITERIA.**

LEAP-Hydro One and Westario: Will pay up to \$500.00 every 12 months on an electricity bill. If you *heat* with electricity, it is \$600.00. The Household Income needs to be below a certain income level to qualify. Can be done by phone directly with Simcoe County, or at an agency in Grey Bruce. Call 1-855-487-5327 to register first.

LEAP – Union Gas: Will pay up to \$500.00 every 12 months against a Union Gas bill. The Household Income needs to be below a certain income level to qualify. United Way Bruce Grey administers this program. Call 1-855-487-5327 to register first.

Utility Relief Fund: The United Way Bruce Grey fundraises for this program and will pay up to \$500.00 every 12 months for heating (wood, oil, propane). The Household Income needs to be below a certain income level to qualify. Call 211 to register first.

O.E.S.P.: Starting January 1st, 2016, low income households can now receive a monthly credit on their Hydro Bill of, at least \$35.00. The credit will continue for 2, 3 or 5 years, depending on income. Call 211 to register first.

Sustainable Housing Benefit (Grey County): The County offers a grant to help with emergency housing needs including critical repairs, rent arrears, utility costs, moving expenses etc. Call 519-376-5744.

Housing Stability Fund (Bruce County): The County offers a grant to help with emergency housing needs including critical repairs, rent arrears, utility costs, moving expenses etc. Call 1-800-265-3022 or 396-3450

Ontario Renovates: Both Counties offer a grant to help with major critical home repairs and/or renovations such as roofing, heating, plumbing etc. Call 1-800-265-3022 or 396-3450 in Bruce or 376-2208 in Grey.

Ecofitt (Natural Gas customers only): If you heat with natural gas, the Ecofitt program will come into your home to assess your heating efficiency. They will insulate basement to attic if that is the cause of heat loss, draft proof doors and windows and weather strip where needed. Call 211 to register first.

HAP/HEAP/Greensaver/SaveOnEnergy: The Home Assistance Program is focused on helping all electricity users to cut down on their usage by way of replacing old appliances such as a refrigerator, freezer, air conditioner and de-humidifier. Call 211 to register first. Westario consumers (HEAP) call 1-866-988-5029.

Free Income Tax Preparation: If your income is below certain guidelines you can visit any of many Free Tax Preparation Clinics in Grey Bruce. Call 211 to see which office is closest to you.

Backpacks: A fully loaded backpack for September. Call 211 to register first.

The OESP on-bill credit amount will depend on how many people live in the house and the combined household income after tax.

Effective May 1, 2017

OESP Monthly Credit Amounts by Household Income Level

Household Income (After Tax)	Household Size (Number of people living in household)						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7+
\$28,000 or less	\$45	\$45	\$51	\$57	\$63	\$75	\$75
\$28,001 – \$39,000		\$40	\$45	\$51	\$57	\$63	\$75
\$39,001 – \$48,000			\$35	\$40	\$45	\$51	\$57
\$48,001 – \$52,000					\$35	\$40	\$45

For some customers, the need to use more power is unavoidable. If your home is electrically heated, or you rely on an approved medical device requiring a lot of electricity, OESP offers a higher level of assistance.

OESP Monthly Credit Amounts by Household Income Level – Energy Intensive

Household Income (After Tax)	Household Size (Number of people living in household)						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7+
\$28,000 or less	\$68	\$68	\$75	\$83	\$90	\$113	\$113
\$28,001-\$39,000		\$60	\$68	\$75	\$83	\$90	\$113
\$39,001-\$48,000			\$52	\$60	\$68	\$75	\$83
\$48,001-\$52,000					\$52	\$60	\$68

Which medical devices qualify for a higher level of assistance?

There are three at-home medical devices that will qualify an applicant for the higher level of assistance:

- A. Kidney Dialysis Machine
- B. Mechanical Ventilators (invasive and non-invasive)
- C. Oxygen Concentrator