



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Need Help With Utility Bills This Winter? Now Is The Time To Act!
Fuel Assistance Enrollment Period Opened November 1**

Westborough, MA – November 2, 2015 - The application period for Massachusetts residents seeking financial assistance under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) for the 2015-2016 heating season opened on November 1 and continues through April 30, 2016. Any resident who may need assistance during the upcoming winter under this program must apply during this time period to qualify. Homeowners and renters, including those with heat included in their rent can apply.

"We encourage customers needing assistance to act now and call or visit their local fuel assistance office to apply," said Steve Bryant, president of Columbia Gas of Massachusetts. "If customers are having difficulty paying their natural gas bills, we encourage them to contact Columbia Gas as soon as possible at 1-800-882-5454. There are payment plans and options available to assist with winter heating bills."

Columbia Gas residential customers receiving public assistance benefits may also qualify for the discounted **Low Income Gas Rate**, the **Residential Arrearage Management Program**, which is designed to eliminate past due balances, and no-cost energy efficiency improvements. For customers who may be just over the income guidelines for fuel assistance, the **Good Neighbor Energy Fund** may provide financial assistance.

For more information on bill payment options, energy assistance and other information please go www.ColumbiaGasMA.com. click on Manage Your Account or call Columbia Gas of Massachusetts Customer Contact Center at 1-800-882-5454.

2015-2016 Fuel Assistance & Weatherization Assistance Program Eligibility

Family Size	Maximum Weekly Income
1	\$637
2	\$833
3	\$1,029
4	\$1,225
5	\$1,421
6	\$1,617
7	\$1,653
8	\$1,690

Columbia Gas of Massachusetts

Columbia Gas of Massachusetts delivers clean, affordable and efficient natural gas to more than 300,000 natural gas customers in southeastern Massachusetts, the greater Springfield area and the Merrimack Valley. Headquartered in Westborough, Massachusetts, the company is the largest gas-only provider in the state and is one of NiSource's seven regulated utility companies. NiSource (NYSE: NI) is one of the largest fully-regulated utility companies in the United States, serving approximately 3.5 million natural gas customers and 500,000 electric customers through its local Columbia Gas and NIPSCO brands. More information about Columbia Gas of Massachusetts and NiSource is available at www.ColumbiaGasMA.com or www.nisource.com.

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