

## Can't pay natural gas bills? HEAT New Mexico assistance still available

**(ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.) – New Mexico Gas Company customers struggling to pay overdue balances from the winter heating season still have an important source of help available: the company's HEAT New Mexico fund.**

The seasonal charitable assistance fund – sponsored by NMGC and supported through contributions by customers, employees and company shareholders – still has funds available for qualifying customers. The fund is administered through the Salvation Army and there are offices still taking applications throughout the state.

"HEAT New Mexico is an important way to help customers in need," said Tommy Sanders, vice president of customer and support services. "We want customers to know that help is still available this year and that it will remain so until the fund is depleted sometime this spring."

Sanders said demand for help from the fund may be down this year due to unusually low natural gas prices. Currently natural gas is a good value, and prices haven't been this low in years. "Still, there inevitably are customers who qualify for help but may not be aware of the fund," he said.

To apply for help, customers should:

- First apply for assistance from the state Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which is administered by the New Mexico Human Services Department and various tribal and pueblo authorities, and then
- Visit [any Salvation Army office or participating HEAT New Mexico provider](#), bringing with them a valid identification, a letter from LIHEAP certifying they applied for LIHEAP benefits, proof of income and a copy of their current NMGC bill.

NMGC's website includes additional information on both [LIHEAP](#) and [HEAT New Mexico](#).

NMGC's website includes additional information on both [LIHEAP](#) and [HEAT New Mexico](#).

[New Mexico Gas Co.](#), the largest natural gas distribution utility in New Mexico, is part of the TECO Energy family of companies. New Mexico Gas serves more than 515,000 customers across New Mexico. [TECO Energy Inc.](#) (NYSE: TE) is an energy-related holding company with regulated electric and gas utilities in Florida and New Mexico: [Tampa Electric](#), [Peoples Gas System](#) and [New Mexico Gas Co.](#)