What is it: ComEd CARE Energy Assistance Programs offer the Residential Special Hardship Fund for households in need. This grant provides assistance beyond other programs to address special hardship cases. Individual special circumstances, including severity of the hardship, will be considered. The program will be terminated once funds have been exhausted. An eligible household may receive a grant every two years.

Who is eligible: Active ComEd residential customers with household incomes up to 250 percent of the poverty level ($57,625 for a family of four), who identify a hardship issue and a demonstrated need. Proof of identification is required to establish customer of record. PIPP customers are not eligible to participate.

How to apply: Will County Center for Community Concerns will be taking applications Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 3:00pm OR until the daily list is full.

The following documents are required:

- Proof of gross income, at or below 250% of poverty, for all household members for the 30-day period prior to the application date. (Pay stubs, social security benefit letter, etc.)
- Copy of your CURRENT ComEd electric service bill, not more than 30 days old
- Proof of Identification as the ComEd customer of record. (Drivers License, Photo ID, etc.)
- Proof of hardship (please read the back of this flyer for qualifying hardships)
**Special Hardship Fund Eligibility Criteria** - In all cases, the applicant must provide proof of hardship along with the demonstrated need based upon income level and finances. *A hardship must have occurred within a timely period.* Priority will be given to those customers meeting the following criteria:

**Medical Hardship**
- Qualifying medical conditions include:
  - Proof of hospitalization, surgery recovery, or medical/prescription services that are limiting income and finances.
  - Households with life support equipment (proof of equipment will be required – ComEd will certify/review equipment eligibility)

**Military Hardship**
- Qualifying military conditions include:
  - Military deployment of one or both head-of-household/parent(s), deployment/activation papers and documents must be provided.
  - Military personnel returning from active duty with a disability. Proof of circumstances must be provided.

**Senior Hardship**
- Qualifying conditions include:
  - Senior’s requiring “in-home care” and other services resulting in difficulty making “out-of-pocket” costs, therefore limiting their finances. Proof of these expenses or proof of Community Care Program (CCP) participation must be provided.
  - Foster grandparents raising their minor grandchildren. Applicants must provide Medicaid/Kidcare card for grandchild, displaying child’s name and grandparent’s name and address.
  - Seniors that qualify at 151% to 250% of income and who can demonstrate that their available income is not sufficient to meet all expenses would qualify for a hardship grant. Proof of monthly bill obligations is required.

**Disability Hardship**
- Households containing a person(s) with a disability, including mental health that severely limit the household’s finances.
  - Medicaid or SSI documents will need to be provided.

**Loss of Employment or Unexpected Loss of Income**
- Qualifying conditions include:
  - Household incomes impacted by a loss of employment due to the lay-off or termination of employment. Termination of employment cannot be the result of applicant’s negligence, e.g. being “fired” from a job for performance reasons. Termination papers or layoff notice must be provided as proof.
  - Unexpected loss of income or reduction in income due to SSI reassessment, tax increase or spousal death. Proof of income loss must be provided.
  - Educational Expenses – Student contributing to the financial income of a family is now attending College / University resulting in a reduction of the household income. Proof of full time student status (registration documents) and loss of income (check stubs) must be provided. A letter from the last former employer can be provided as proof of loss of income.

**Family Crisis**
- Within the last 6 months, households experiencing the death of an immediate family member or terminal illness of an immediate family member. Death certificate or medical papers must be provided for spouse or affected family member.

**Property Damage**
- Unexpected and significant demands on a household’s income due to property damage associated with natural disasters not covered by insurance. Natural disasters include flood, tornado or wind damage to home or vehicle.

**Victimized by Criminal Activity**
- Unexpected reduction of a household’s income or loss or damage to household property as a result of being victimized by criminal activity. Provide police report (must have been filed within 72 hours after the event) and proof of income or property loss or damage, e.g. lost workdays or photos of damaged property.