**FY 2017 Heating Assistance Benefit Computation**

**Step 1 – Community fuel points**

There is assigned heating cost points to each community in the state, based upon the

community’s annual fuel cost and climatic conditions.

• If the household uses natural gas and another fuel type for heat, the division will use the community heating cost points for natural gas.

• If the household uses self-harvested wood or coal for heat, the division will use the community heating cost points for oil multiplied by 0.5.

• If the household uses purchased wood or coal for heat, the division will use the community heating cost points for oil multiplied by 0.8.

**Step 2 – Dwelling type**

Kenaitze Indian Tribe will multiply the community heating cost points by the first one of the following factors that describes the household’s dwelling. If more than one factor applies, the division will use the factor listed first:

(1) the factor of 1 if the household resides in a two-bedroom single family home;

(2) the factor of 1.4 if the household resides in a mobile home, RV or house boat with heated living space of 980 square feet or more;

(3) the factor of 0.4 if the household resides in a travel trailer, RV, or mobile home with heated living space less than 980 square feet, or tent or pickup camper;

(4) the factor of 0.15 if the household resides in a one-room dwelling such as a studio apartment, hotel or boarding home;

(5) the factor of 0.35 if the household resides on a boat with heated living space less than 980 square feet;

(6) the factor of 0.55 if the household resides in a one-bedroom dwelling, or a one-room house or cabin without bedrooms;

(7) the factor of 1.3 if the household resides in a three-or-more-bedroom single family, duplex or triplex home;

(8) the factor of 0.7 if the household resides in a two-bedroom unit in an apartment building of four or more attached units.

If the household resides in a single residence with one or more other households, the heating cost points are reduced to the household’s proportionate share of the home heating expenses.

**Step 3 – Household size and income**

Kenaitze Indian Tribe reviews and verifies each household's net income for the month prior or 30 days prior to application.

Verification may be provided through: documentary evidence (wage stub, award letter, etc.); Division of Public Assistance and Department of Labor records; or impartial third parties such as fee agents, village council representatives, or social service agencies.

Kenaitze Indian Tribe assign each household the following percentage of heating cost points based upon the household’s net monthly income and family size, expressed as a percentage of the Alaska poverty level.

• 100 percent of points if the household’s gross monthly income is no more than 25 percent of the

Alaska poverty level;

• 90 percent of points if the household’s gross monthly income is more than 25 percent but no more than 50 percent of the Alaska poverty level;

• 80 percent of points if the household’s gross monthly income is more than 50 percent but no more than 75 percent of the Alaska poverty level;

• 70 percent of points if the household’s gross monthly income is more than 75 percent but no more than 100 percent of the Alaska poverty level;

• 60 percent of points if the household’s gross monthly income is more than 100 percent but no more than 125 percent of the Alaska poverty level;

• 50 percent of points if the household’s gross monthly income is more than 125 percent of the

Alaska poverty level but no more than the maximum allowable.

If the household’s net monthly income exceeds the maximum allowable poverty level the household is not eligible.

**Step 4 – Priority groups**

Kenaitze Indian Tribe will add one point to the income adjusted heating cost points if the household includes one or more members 55 years of age or older, legally disabled, or under six years of age.

**Step 5 – Round points**

Kenaitze Indian Tribe will round the final total heating cost points to the nearest whole number. The total heating cost points may not exceed 35 points.

**Step 6 – Heating points of 2.0 or more**

Households must have heating cost points of 2.0 or more before rounding to be eligible for heating

assistance.

**Step 7 – Multiply by the benefit rate to determine household benefit**

Kenaitze Indian Tribe will multiply by the FY 2017 benefit rate of $110 per point to determine the amount of the household’s heating assistance.

The amount of heating assistance may be reduced by the amount of the unpaid balance that the household owes Kenaitze Indian Tribe for previously awarded heating assistance to which the household was not entitled. Kenaitze Indian Tribe will use this method of recoupment of overpayments only if the household has not responded to the Kenaitze Indian Tribe’s request for repayment or the household defaults on its repayment agreement.

The following examples illustrate how a household’s heating assistance benefit is determined.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Example 1 |  | **Benefit calculation:** |
| Step 1. | Community, Fuel | Kenai, N Gas | 6 points |
| Step 2. | Dwelling | 3 bedroom house | 6 points x 1.3 = 7.8 points |
| Step 3. | Household Size, Income | 4, $2,150 | 76-100% of poverty = 70% |
|  |  |  | 7.8 points x 0.7 = 5.46 points |
| Step 4. | Household includes elderly, disabled or child under age 6  Pregnant women | No | N/A |
| Step 5. | Heating points of 2.0 or more | Yes | 5.46 points |
| Step 6. | Round points |  | Rounded = 5 points |
| Step 7. | Multiply by benefit rate |  | 5 points x 110 = $550.00 |
|  | Example 2 |  | **Benefit calculation:** |
| Step 1. | Community, Fuel | Soldotna, Oil | 11 points |
| Step 2. | Dwelling | 2 bdrm, 4+unit bldg | 11 points x 0.7 = 7.7 points |
| Step 3. | Household Size, Income | 2, $1,685 | 101-125% of poverty = 60% |
|  |  |  | 7.7 points x 0.6 = 4.62 points |
| Step 4. | Household includes elderly, disabled or child under age 6,  Pregnant women | Yes | 4.62 points + 1 = 5.62 points |
| Step 5. | Heating points of 2.0 or more | Yes | 6 points |
| Step 6. | Round points |  | Rounded = 5 points |
| Step 7. | Multiply by benefit rate |  | 6 points x $110 = $660.00 |
|  | Example 3 |  | **Benefit calculation:** |
| Step 1. | Community, Fuel | Kenai, Oil | 9 points |
| Step 2. | Dwelling | 2 bedroom house | No adjustment |
| Step 3. | Household Size, Income | 5, $2,300 | 76-100% of poverty = 70% |
|  |  |  | 9 points x 0.7 = 6.3 points |
| Step 4. | Household includes elderly, disabled or child under age 6  Pregnant women | Yes | 6.3 points + 1 = 7.3 points |
| Step 5. | Heating points of 2.0 or more | Yes | 7.3 points |
| Step 6. | Round points |  | Rounded = 7 points |
| Step 7. | Multiply by benefit rate |  | 7 points x $110 = $770.00 |
|  | Example 4 |  | **Benefit calculation:** |
| Step 1. | Community, Fuel | Nikiski, Propane | 9 points |
| Step 2. | Dwelling | Studio apartment | 9 points x 0.15 = 1.35 points |
| Step 3. | Household Size, Income | 1, $1,250 | 101-125% of poverty = 60% |
|  |  |  | 1.35 points x 0.6 = 0.81 points |
| Step 4. | Household includes elderly, disabled or child under age 6  Pregnant women | No | N/A |
| Step 5. | Heating points of 2.0 or more | No | 0.81 points |
| Step 6. | Round points |  | N/A |
| Step 7. | Multiply by benefit rate |  | Ineligible |