

Lyon REC News



JANUARY 2021

Phone : 712-472-2506 or 1-800-658-3976 ~ Website : www.lyonrec.coop
Office Hours : Monday thru Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR MEMBER COOPERATIVES

A program for dependent children of:

- Member-cooperative employees
- Member-cooperative consumers

How much is the scholarship?

The Basin Electric Power Cooperative (BEPC) Scholarship Program will award more than 180 scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each. Five of the 20 scholarships for children of BEPC or subsidiary employees will be designated for qualified applicants who plan to attend a certified Vocational or Technical school, and five of the 20 will be designated for qualified applicants who plan to achieve an engineering degree.

Twenty will go to children of member cooperatives' employees, and 141 to children of member-cooperative consumers. There will be one \$1,000 scholarship for each member cooperative to award to a dependent of a consumer member.

The scholarships must be used for educational costs, and the student must enter college in the fall of the school year for which the scholarship is given. Checks will be made payable to the school, and will be distributed to the school by BEPC. Scholarships will be distributed in August.

Who is eligible to receive the scholarship?

Dependent children (including adopted or step-children) of member-system consumers and dependent children of member-cooperative employees are eligible. The applicant must also be a U.S. citizen.

The applicant must be a student who is enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school.

BEPC scholarships will be awarded without regard to other awards, loans or financial assistance the applicant may have obtained.

How are the recipients selected?

Scholarship recipients are selected on the basis of academic record, potential to succeed, leadership and participation in school and community activities, honors, work experience, a statement of education and career goals, and an outside appraisal.

Applicants for the member-cooperative employee dependent category will first be screened by their cooperative. A BEPC selection committee will make the final selection in the member-cooperative employee dependent category.

Member cooperatives will be responsible to select one recipient to be awarded a scholarship in the member cooperative consumer category. The final recipient's completed application will then be forwarded to BEPC by the member cooperative.

The scholarship award winners or the member coops are asked to notify the BEPC human resources division with the name and address of the school the student will be attending by July 1. It is also important to know if the student has switched schools, or has decided not to attend.

What are the recipient's obligations?

Except for the requirements outlined in this brochure, no obligations will be imposed upon the student as a scholarship award winner. Other than payment of the scholarship, no obligations or liability are assumed by BEPC, its subsidiaries or member cooperatives.

How can I apply?

To apply, complete the required criteria and the scholarship application, which can be obtained from your local electric cooperative office.

Children of member-system employees and consumers must submit the application and all necessary information to apply for a scholarship to their local electric cooperative office. The applications must reach your cooperative by **February 14, 2021**.

Lyon REC Scholarship

Each year the Lyon REC, Rock Rapids, Iowa awards one \$1,000.00 scholarship to a student of a member of the Lyon REC. The scholarship can be used to assist in paying for the costs of the student's college, vocational-technical, or community college education. Priority will be given to applicants planning to attend vocational-technical, 2-year community or junior college education. Scholarship applications are available at the Lyon REC office or online at www.lyonrec.coop with a deadline date of **February 14, 2021**.

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE

FEBRUARY 14, 2021

Applications available on our website or in our office



Repair or replace?

Consider appliance age & repair cost

When an older appliance is on the fritz, it usually makes sense to replace it rather than to sink money into repair after repair. But when an appliance breaks down before its expected life span has passed, a repair could be the better option.

Before you call a repair tech or head to the nearest big-box store to buy something new, consider:

The appliance's age. Use the 50% rule: If your appliance is more than halfway through its useful life, and if the repair will cost more than 50% of the price of a new one, head for the store.

The National Association of Realtors estimates that a dishwasher should last a good nine years; a clothes dryer, 13 years; a garbage disposal, 12; an electric range, 13; an exhaust fan, 10; a freezer, 11; a microwave, refrigerator, 13; and a clothes washer, 10.

The warranty. Newer appliances usually come with a warranty of at least a year, and sometimes two, on labor and parts. If the broken device is still covered, call for service.

Your budget. If the repair bill is through the roof and you can afford to buy a new appliance, you could save a little money in the long run.

Newer models of refrigerators, water heaters and dishwashers are so much more energy- and water-efficient than older versions that you could see a difference on your utility bills if you replace rather than repair.

Consider the hidden costs of buying new, however. For example, will you have to pay to have the replacement appliance delivered and installed? Will you need to modify your kitchen for the new appliance to fit?

DISCARD UNWANTED APPLIANCES WITH CARE

When it's time to say good-bye to that old refrigerator or microwave, say good-bye for good.

Too often, second-hand appliances find a second life in the kitchens or basements of bargain-hunters who don't realize that discarded electrical devices can be a safety hazard and add unnecessary charges to the electric bill.

Sometimes, those discarded TVs, water heaters, computers and countertop appliances wind up in back yards, ditches and alleys, where they can attract animals and children who could get trapped inside.

So resist the temptation to pick up a few extra dollars by selling your outdated and broken devices at a flea market or garage sale. And if you're shopping for a dorm refrigerator or space heater for the basement or a college-bound child, find a good price on a new one rather than buying it used from a neighbor or rummage sale.

Instead of throwing appliances in the trash, look for local charities or trade schools that collect old ones and use them to teach repair skills to job-seekers. Or request a special trash pick-up from your local government, which will legally and safely dispose of the unwanted devices.

If you're replacing a large appliance with a newer, more energy-efficient version, have the delivery service haul away your old one.



HAPPY NEW YEAR

MAY YOUR NEW YEAR
BE FULL OF GOOD HEALTH
AND HAPPINESS

Stay warm; save energy

Everyone knows that turning the thermostat down a few degrees and throwing an extra blanket on the bed can stave off high winter energy bills. Here are a few simple but lesser-known energy-savers that you might consider trying this season:

Turn on the ceiling fan. If you switch the direction that the fan's blades rotate so they slowly spin clockwise, the room could feel a bit warmer. This creates an updraft and pushes warm air back into the room.

Retire your wood-burning fireplace. An open fire requires an open flue, and that can suck the warmth right out of your house. Consider replacing it with an electrical insert with realistic flames or a fun light show.

Open the drapes during the day; close them at night. The sun is nature's furnace, so let it shine in through south-facing windows during the day.

Cover windows with plastic film. It will stop much of the heat loss that can escape through uncovered windows.

Run exhaust fans sparingly. Turn on the bathroom fan before you take a shower and turn it off as soon as the steam clears so it won't suck warm air out of your home.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Replace standard power strips with advanced power strips to save energy. Advanced power strips look like ordinary power strips, but they have built-in features that are designed to reduce the amount of energy used by standby electronics that consume energy even when they're not in use (also known as phantom load).

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) estimates that the average home loses \$200 annually to energy wasted by phantom load.

Source: www.nrel.gov



Invest in home gym equipment

If you don't feel comfortable fulfilling your New Year's resolutions at a gym during the pandemic, consider adding a few pieces of exercise equipment to your home.



Sounds expensive. But if a treadmill, stepper or rower are out of your price range, consider some low-tech workout aids that won't require you to upgrade the wiring in your exercise room:

Start with a weight bench, and buy just the basics: dumbbells or hand weights in just a few different sizes; resistance bands, a mat and a big exercise ball.

If your budget permits and your electrical system can tolerate it, add one electrically powered piece of equipment, like a treadmill. Some stationary bikes are electric; others are manual. But make that investment only if you're sure you'll use the equipment once your New Year's resolve wears off.

Add a mirror, some music and a TV to keep you company during your workout, and you'll have everything you need to keep in shape while staying safely at home.

NOVEMBER OPERATING STATISTICS

	2019	2020
KWH Purchased	11,987,897	9,331,954
KWH Sold	11,797,802	8,763,056
Percentage of Line Loss (Year to Date)	2.39%	3.04%
Total Demand	20,306 KW	16,298 KW
Average Farm Consumption	3,311 KWH	2,218 KWH
Average Farm Bill	\$310.34	\$216.51
Income Per Mile	\$1,207.50	\$915.43
Expenses Per Mile	\$1,101.75	\$956.09
Miles Energized	872.86	872.86
Cost of Wholesale (For the Month) . .	5.80¢	5.82¢

HOW TO SAFELY VOLUNTEER DURING COVID

Nonprofits need help during this time when so many would-be volunteers are staying home instead of helping out.

If you have the volunteer spirit during the holidays and beyond, consider pitching in-safely. Here are five ideas:

Donate. Chances are, you're spending some of your at-home time organizing closets and cleaning the basement or garage. Sort through your junk before having it hauled away to discover hidden treasures that you don't want but that are in good shape and might be useful to others.

Most charities have bins for dropping off donations so you won't come into contact with other people.

Organize a food drive. Set up a plastic bin on your porch and encourage your neighbors to fill it with nonperishable grocery items like soup, pasta, peanut butter and cereal. Every time it's full, haul it to a local food bank that has a contactless system for accepting donations.

Visit a neighbor. If someone in your neighborhood is older or can't get to the store, ask for a shopping list the next time you're heading out for yourself. You can drop the items off on the neighbor's porch instead of handing them off in person.

Take phone calls. You can volunteer at a crisis helpline from the safety of your home-via telephone. Many crisis centers are conducting virtual training for volunteers and routine calls to their home or mobile numbers.

CALL MID-SIOUX TO SCHEDULE LIHEAP APPOINTMENT

The Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) offered through **Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc.** may be able to help you pay your winter heating bill. This program is funded through the Iowa Department of Human Rights and has been established to help qualified low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs.

Your local Mid-Sioux office will be taking applications from November 2, 2020 through April 30, 2021. Each applicant will need to furnish a copy of their most recent heating and electric bill; original Social Security or I-94 card for each household member; and proof of the household's income for the past month (4 weeks), the past twelve (12) months, or 2019 or 2020 tax return. Eligibility for participation is established according to the federal income guidelines listed at the right. Applicants eligible for an award will be paid on a first come, first served basis, and all payments are subject to availability of funds.

MAXIMUM GROSS INCOME

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	ANNUAL INCOME
1	\$22,330
2	\$30,170
3	\$38,010
4	\$45,850
5	\$53,690

For families with more than five members, add \$7,840 for each additional member.

For more information or to make an appointment contact your local outreach office or 800-859-2025

Email: jcolling@midsioux.org - Hearing Impaired call 711

Non-Discrimination Statement

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Consumer Authorization Form

Yes, I want to be a part of members helping members and contribute to RECare.

_____ I will make a one-time contribution to RECare. My Check is enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please mail to: RECare | Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 629 | Rock Rapids, IA 51246

RECare Consumer Contribution Plan

Your Rural Electric Cooperative has always extended a helping hand to those needing it. Now, in response to actions by the Iowa General Assembly, your REC has established RECare, a program of members helping members. RECare will provide funds to be distributed by local community action agencies to help pay winter heating bills and assist in weatherization of homes of low income consumers of this Cooperative. You may make a one-time contribution, or you may make a monthly contribution. Even one dollar a month contribution will help others.