Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

HOMES & HEEHR Rebate Programs

The CNMI Department of Public Works (DPW), Division of Energy, is working toward the implementation of the Home Efficiency Rebates (HOMES) and Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates (HEEHR) programs. These federally funded initiatives are intended to help eligible households improve home energy efficiency, reduce energy consumption, and lower electricity costs.

General Program Information

1. What are the HOMES and HEEHR Rebate Programs?

The HOMES and HEEHR programs are federally funded initiatives supported by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to help households make energy-efficient improvements.

- **HOMES (Home-Owner Managing Energy Savings):** Supports whole-home energy efficiency improvements designed to reduce overall household energy consumption.
- **HEEHR (High-Efficiency Electric Home Rebates):** Supports eligible high-efficiency electric appliances and home electrification improvements.

Both programs are intended to help residents improve home energy efficiency, reduce electricity consumption, and manage household energy costs.

2. Are the programs currently accepting applications?

No. The CNMI has received conditional federal awards for both programs. However, the programs are not yet open to the public and are not currently accepting applications or distributing rebates.

The Division of Energy is working with the U.S. Department of Energy to address the outstanding conditions and finalize program requirements. An official announcement will be issued once the programs are approved and ready for implementation.

3. When will the programs officially launch?

An official launch date has not yet been established. The Division of Energy will provide updates regarding program availability, application procedures, eligibility requirements, and other important information once the necessary federal requirements have been met.

4. How much funding has been awarded to the CNMI?

The CNMI has received conditional federal awards totaling $48 million:

- HOMES Program: $24 million
- HEEHR Program: $24 million

These funds are intended to support eligible residential energy improvements throughout the Commonwealth. The total award amounts do not represent individual household rebate amounts.

5. How much can eligible households receive in rebates?

Under the current program awards:

- **HOMES:** Eligible households may receive up to $8,000.
- **HEEHR:** Eligible households may receive up to $14,000.

The actual rebate amount will depend on applicable program requirements, household income, eligible improvements, and other factors. These amounts are maximum potential rebates and are not guaranteed payments.

Eligibility and Participation

6. Who will be eligible to participate?

Eligibility requirements are still being finalized. Household eligibility may depend on factors such as household income, property type, and the proposed energy improvements.

The Division of Energy will publish detailed eligibility requirements before applications open. We are working to ensure that a handful of residents can be eligible for the program.

7. Will the programs be available throughout the CNMI?

The programs are intended to serve eligible households throughout the Commonwealth, including Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Specific participation requirements and procedures will be announced as part of the official program guidelines.

8. Will renters be eligible to participate?

Eligibility requirements for homeowners, renters, and landlords have not yet been finalized. Additional information regarding property ownership, landlord authorization, and tenant participation will be provided before the programs launch.

9. Are there income requirements?

Yes. Household income is an important factor in determining eligibility and potential rebate amounts. The programs follow applicable U.S. Department of Energy income guidelines, which use Area Median Income (AMI) to determine household income categories.

The Division of Energy will provide additional information on income thresholds and documentation requirements once finalized.

Eligible Improvements and Rebates

10. What types of home improvements may qualify under HOMES?

The HOMES program is designed to support whole-home energy efficiency improvements that demonstrate reductions in household energy consumption.

Potential improvements may include energy-efficient heating and cooling systems, insulation, air sealing, and other qualifying energy efficiency upgrades.

All improvements must meet applicable program requirements and demonstrate the required energy savings.

11. What types of appliances and improvements may qualify under HEEHR?

The HEEHR program is designed to support eligible high-efficiency electric appliances and home electrification improvements.

Potential eligible improvements under federal program guidelines may include:

- Energy-efficient electric heating and cooling equipment.
- Heat pump water heaters.
- Energy-efficient electric appliances.
- Electrical wiring and electrical panel upgrades.
- Insulation, air sealing, and ventilation improvements.

The final list of eligible equipment, products, and improvements will be determined by the CNMI program guidelines.

12. Are solar photovoltaic (PV) panels eligible for rebates?

No. Solar photovoltaic (PV) panels are not eligible for rebates under the HOMES or HEEHR programs.

13. Can I participate in both HOMES and HEEHR?

Participation in both programs may be possible, subject to applicable federal and CNMI program requirements. However, the same improvement or project cost cannot receive duplicate rebates. Additional details will be provided once program guidelines are finalized.

14. Will improvements made before the official program launch qualify for reimbursement?

Residents should not purchase equipment, begin home improvements, or enter into contracts with the expectation of receiving reimbursement through these programs.

Only projects that meet the final program requirements and receive the appropriate authorization will qualify. The Division of Energy cannot guarantee reimbursement for improvements completed before the official program launch.

Contractors and Consumer Protection

15. Do I need to use an approved contractor?

The HOMES and HEEHR programs will have contractor and installation requirements to ensure that improvements meet applicable standards and program guidelines.

The Division of Energy will provide information about contractor qualifications, participation requirements, and any approved contractor lists before the programs become available.

16. Can contractors participate in the programs?

Yes. Contractors may have opportunities to participate in delivering eligible home energy improvements, subject to program requirements and applicable qualification standards.

Additional information regarding contractor registration, qualifications, and participation will be announced separately.

17. How can I protect myself from potential scams or fraudulent offers?

Residents are encouraged to exercise caution when approached by individuals or businesses claiming to represent the HOMES or HEEHR programs.

Please keep the following in mind:

- Do not provide personal or financial information to unverified individuals.
- Do not sign contracts or make payments based on promises of guaranteed rebates.
- Verify any program-related offers directly with the Division of Energy.
- Follow only official announcements and information released by CNMI DPW and the Division of Energy.

If someone contacts you claiming to offer home improvements or rebate assistance through these programs, please verify their information before proceeding.

Additional Information and Contact

18. Where can I find official program updates?

Residents are encouraged to follow official announcements from the CNMI DPW Division of Energy website, for the latest information regarding program implementation, eligibility, applications, and rebate availability.

Please refer to official government announcements rather than information circulated through unofficial sources.

19. Who can I contact if I have questions?

For additional information or questions regarding the HOMES and HEEHR Rebate Programs, please contact:

CNMI Department of Public Works/Division of Energy

(670) 664-4480 / (670) 664-4481