



Community Action E-Pages

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What To Know About LIEAP

In 2020-21, the Low Income Energy Assistance Program, LIEAP, has received almost 3000 applications. LIEAP assists low income households with their primary heating source for the duration of the heating season. The amount of assistance a household receives is determined by poverty level, the size of the home, and heat source (Propane, Electric, Gas, Wood, Fuel Oil). LIEAP can help with energy assistance even if heat is included as part of rent. The account does not need to be in the applicant's name to qualify.

Applicants are sometimes confused over LIEAP eligibility. It can at times seem complicated, but HRDC staff is available to answer any questions about the program in a thoughtful and timely manner. HRDC and LIEAP understand the urgency of a household's heat. Rest assured that all calls are returned each business day to ensure the best outcome for all LIEAP participants. If an individual or family does not qualify for LIEAP they are immediately referred to Energy Share. Direct referrals are made in the HRDC 7 LIEAP office.

To qualify for LIEAP:

1. The applicant is required to provide three months of past income to determine eligibility.
2. The applicant will be required to provide a current 30 day bank statement for all accounts in the month they apply.
3. All individuals living in the household, 16 years or older are required to sign the application.
4. The applicant must provide an original copy of the utility bill they are requesting assistance for.
5. If the applicant is a SNAP recipient, there is no need to provide income or bank verification.

You may not be aware that LIEAP can help with a furnace emergency once the household is approved. If you are seeking home weatherization, the applicant must already be approved for LIEAP. The household is then placed on the weatherization list and serviced by priority of need.

The versatility of the LIEAP program and the experience of the staff enable applications to be processed quickly. As each case file is reviewed, staff members are able to make referrals to other agency programs that individuals and families may need assistance with.

There is a drop box conveniently located outside of the LIEAP building that holds applications for both LIEAP and Energy Share. The drop box also allows individuals to pick up and drop off applications at all hours. At a client's request, a LIEAP staff member can email an application. If an email is not available, or prefer a paper application, LIEAP will mail it and enclose a prepaid addressed envelope for return of the application. If you need assistance completing an application, LIEAP staff can help you over the phone. If you, or someone you know needs heating assistance, tell them about the LIEAP program. For additional information on LIEAP, or any of the other HRDC programs, contact us at info@hrdc7.org, call (406) 247-4788, or visit our website at www.hrdc7.org.



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