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MISSOURI SENATE

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Missouri’s Energy Assistance Program Helps with Utility Bills

JEFFERSON CITY — With temperatures falling and winter just around the corner, Missourians who may find it difficult to pay for home-heating costs could qualify for energy assistance through the Missouri Department of Social Services’ Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Missourians who meet certain requirements based on household size, income and type of fuel used for home heating may be eligible to receive these benefits. You could be eligible if you:

- Are responsible for paying your home heating costs;
- Do not have available resources in excess of \$3,000; and
- Meet specific monthly income guidelines listed below.

| Household Size | Monthly Income Limits |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | \$1,218 |
| 2 | \$1,639 |
| 3 | \$2,060 |
| 4 | \$2,481 |
| 5 | \$2,901 |
| 6 | \$3,322 |
| 7 | \$3,743 |
| 8 | \$4,164 |

Missouri’s Home Energy Assistance Program is NOT limited to homeowners. If home-heating costs are included in your family’s monthly rental charges, you may also be eligible to receive benefits based upon a percentage of annual rental costs. Also, if you are living in subsidized housing you may be eligible if you are paying any out-of-pocket expenses for heating costs.

To confirm if you are eligible for energy assistance, contact the North East Community Action Corp., for more information. In St. Charles, call the community action office number at (636) 272-3477; in Lincoln County at (636) 528-7604; or go online at www.necac.org.

For those who qualify for assistance, applications for heating assistance are available online at <http://www.dss.mo.gov/fsd/eassist/pdf/hcapp.pdf> The application process started Oct. 1 for families in which the head of household is over 60 or disabled. All other applications will be accepted beginning Nov. 1. To make sure funds are available when the cold weather arrives, it is recommended applicants mail the completed application information to their respective community action agency office as soon as possible.

As part of the application process, applicants will need a copy of their last energy bill, information regarding income, and documentation on the members of the household.

For additional tips on saving on heating during the winter, visit <http://www.psc.mo.gov> or call 1-800-392-4211.

As always, if you have any questions about this week’s column or any other matter involving state government, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach my office by phone at (866) 271-2844.

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