



Development
Services Agency

News Release



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Ohio Development Services Agency and HARCATUS help Ohioans Stay Warm this Winter

HEAP Winter Crisis Program Began November 1

The HARCATUS Tri-County Community Action Organization and Ohio Development Services Agency will help Ohioans stay warm during the cold winter months. The Home Energy Assistance Winter Crisis Program provides eligible Ohioans heating assistance if they are disconnected from their heating source, threatened with disconnection or if they have less than 25 percent supply of bulk fuel. The program will run until March 31, 2019.

To qualify for the Winter Crisis Program, a household must be threatened with disconnection, have been disconnected or have less than a 25 percent supply of bulk fuel. The household must also have a gross income at or below 175 percent of the federal poverty level. Income eligibility guidelines begin with \$21,245 for a one person household and increases by \$7,560 for each additional household member.

Individuals interested in receiving Winter Crisis assistance must have a face-to-face interview at the local HEAP provider. Customers **must bring** the following items to their appointment:

- proof of income (copies of pay stubs, bank statements, SSA benefit letter, etc.) for the past 30 days or 12 months for all adult household members.
- copies of their most recent energy bills (gas, electric, and/or bulk fuel invoice).
- Social Security cards and birth certificates, if not already on file.
- Will require additional proof of U.S. citizenship/legal residency for non-resident household members
- May require Child Support printout in some circumstances.
- Self-Employment or no income must complete and sign agency forms and supply supporting documentation.

Examples of documents that are accepted to prove citizenship/legal residency include: a Social Security Card, birth certificate, voter registration, U.S. Passport, naturalization paper/certification of citizenship, permanent VISA, and INS ID Card.

As of January 15, 2019, HARCATUS has assisted more than 770 households for nearly \$385,000 in direct payments to the energy providers.

For more information, call the HARCATUS Family Support Toll-Free Appointment Hot Line at 1-855-806-9650. No shows for appointments may result in utilities being shut off.

Households faced with a regulated utility shut-off are advised that the utility company will only allow one hold for the disconnection notice and that cannot be extended.

Ohioans can call the toll-free hotline at (800) 282-0880, Monday through Friday (hearing impaired customers may dial 711 for assistance or visit http://development.ohio.gov/is/is_heapwinter.htm for more information about the Winter Crisis Program.