



SOCIAL SERVICES NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Jan. 27, 2014

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APPLICATIONS TO BE ACCEPTED FOR LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

HICKORY -- Catawba County residents may apply for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) at the Salvation Army in Hickory.

Households including elderly or disabled persons have first priority and may apply now through March 31. All other households may apply Feb. 3 through March 31, or until the funds are exhausted.

To be a priority household, at least one member of the household must be 60 or older, or at least one household member must be disabled (receiving disability benefits from SSI, SSA or VA) and receiving services through the Department of Aging and Adult Services.

Everyone must apply each year. Payments will be sent directly to the primary heating provider, such as the electric, gas, or heating oil company.

Assistance is based on household income and the number of persons living in the household. To be eligible, households must have total resources of \$2,200 or less. "Resources" may include checking and savings accounts, cash, certificates of deposit, etc. The person requesting assistance must be the person responsible for paying the heating bill.

Eligibility is based on income. The income of everyone in the household is counted. For example, if there is one person in the household, the maximum countable income must be \$1,245 or less; two persons, \$1,680 or less; three persons, \$2,116 or less; four persons, \$2,551 or less; five persons, \$2,987 or less.

To apply, you must bring verification that you meet these criteria to the Salvation Army. You should bring identification, verification of income/resources and your most current heating bill. Those applying under the early deadline must also bring proof of age, disability, and services received from the Division of Aging and Adult Services. For additional information about this program, contact Catawba County Social Services at 828-695-5625.

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