



SOCIAL SERVICES NEWS

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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 beginning Dec. 2.

First priority (an earlier application period) will be given to households with at least one elderly or disabled person. Everyone must apply in the county where they live.

There have been several recent changes to the program. Everyone who wishes to receive help paying their heating bill through this program must apply each year. Households will no longer receive a check. Instead, payments will be sent directly to the primary heating provider, such as the electric, gas, or heating oil company.

The first priority in distributing these funds will go to households that include a person who is 60 or above, **or** at least one person who is disabled (receiving disability benefits from SSI, SSA or VA disability payment) **and** receiving services from the Division of Aging and Adult Services.

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. Applications for first-priority households will be accepted Dec. 2 through March 31.

Starting Feb. 3, other low-income households may apply for LIEAP assistance, if funds are still available. The final date to apply for assistance is March 31.

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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