



CATAWBA COUNTY

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Department of Social Services

PRESS RELEASE

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Energy Assistance registration begins soon

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program provides a one-time cash payment to help eligible families pay their heating bills.

Applications will be taken in Catawba County at the Department of Social Services beginning November 7, 2005, and ending November 17, 2005. On November 10 and the week of November 17, applications will also be taken at five different sites throughout the county. The sites are as follows:

- November 10 – Heritage Village, Newton – 9:30 am – Noon
- November 14 – Maiden Community Center, Maiden – 9:30 am – Noon
- November 15 – Highland United Methodist Church, Hickory – 9:30 am – Noon
- November 16 – Catawba United Methodist Church, Catawba – 9:30 am – Noon
- November 17 – Morningstar Baptist Church, Hickory – 9:30 am - Noon

All eligible households will receive a cash payment the first week of February 2006. The money comes from a Federal Block Grant and will be distributed to approved households depending on the number of people in the household, income, type of heating source, and region of the state where the family lives.

The eligibility criteria include limits on assets, income, and a household is responsible for the heating expense.

The assets limit for the total household cannot exceed \$2,200. Excluded from this total are the home, car, household belongings or insurance.

The household must meet the income test below:

<u># in Household</u>	<u>Countable Income</u>
1	\$ 823
2	\$1,111
3	\$1,399
4	\$1,687
5	\$1,975
6	\$2,262

Food Stamp households will get a letter informing them whether they will automatically be eligible or will have to come into the Agency to apply for the assistance. Most Food Stamp households will automatically be eligible. However, the Food Stamp households who need to come in and apply include households where all household members income and assets are not counted in the Food Stamp grant or are not responsible for payment of their heating expenses.

For more information, call Catawba County Social Services at (828) 695-5600.

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