

Ted Strickland
Governor**Lisa Patt-McDaniel**
Director**Lee Fisher**
Lieutenant Governor**For Immediate Release**

June 22, 2010

HEAP SUMMER CRISIS PROGRAM BEGINS JULY 1*Up to \$175 available for eligible households*

Columbus, Ohio – Ohio Department of Development Director Lisa Patt-McDaniel today announced that funding to assist eligible households with summer cooling costs through the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Summer Crisis Program is available July 1, 2010 through August 31, 2010.

“The HEAP Summer Crisis Program is vital to the safety and well-being of Ohio’s older citizens, ensuring they receive the assistance they need during the hot summer months,” Patt-McDaniel said.

The HEAP Summer Crisis Program, administered by the Department’s Community Development Division, provides assistance to low-income households with an elderly member (60 years or older), or households that can provide physician documentation that cooling assistance is needed for a household member’s health. These households are eligible for electric bill payment assistance of up to \$175. For many eligible customers, \$175 will cover one month’s electric bill. Residents are encouraged to work with their local community action agency, job and family services, and faith-based organizations for additional assistance.

Last year, more than 42,000 Ohio families were assisted through the HEAP Summer Crisis Program. The gross income of eligible households must be at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines listed below:

Size of Household - Income

- 1 - up to \$21,660
- 2 - up to \$29,140
- 3 - up to \$36,620
- 4 - up to \$44,100
- 5 - up to \$51,580
- 6 - up to \$59,060
- 7 - up to \$66,540
- 8 - up to \$74,020

For households with more than eight members, add \$7,480 for each additional member.

For more information, call the toll-free HEAP hotline at (800) 282-0880. The hearing impaired may dial (800) 686-1557 for assistance. For information on the HEAP Summer Crisis Program website, please click [here](#) or visit www.energyhelp.ohio.gov.

Also, by visiting local HEAP agencies, customers can learn about the new Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP Plus) program that begins November 1. PIPP Plus standardizes year-round customer payments, making it easier for customers to budget and helps good-paying customers get rid of old utility debt and avoid accruing new debt.

The Ohio Department of Development's **Community Development Division** also administers other state and federally funded programs that benefit Ohio individuals and families, such as the Home Weatherization Assistance Program and Community Services Block Grant. The **Community Development Division** coordinates its programs to form a comprehensive strategy to build stronger, healthier communities throughout the state.

Working with our partners across business, state and local governments, academia, and the nonprofit sector, the **Ohio Department of Development** works to attract, create, grow, and retain businesses through competitive incentives and targeted investments. Engaged every day in marketing, innovating, investing, and collaborating, the **Ohio Department of Development** works at the speed of business to accelerate and support the teamwork that is absolutely necessary for success by providing financial, informational, and technical assistance to those making an investment in Ohio's future.

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