

## **FEDERAL FUNDING FOR ENERGY HAS BEEN INCREASED**

### **PLEASE READ THIS IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM ELK RIVER PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT**

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has received significantly more money for 2009. If you are eligible to receive this funding, it is critical that you contact the appropriate **South Central Human Resources Agency** office in your area and complete the required applications as soon as possible to take advantage of this very important benefit.

Below are the **SCHRA** office locations in our service area of Coffee and Franklin counties:

**South Central Human Resources Agency**  
Coffee County Justice Center  
300 Hillsboro Blvd. 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Room 201  
Manchester, TN 37355  
931-723-5118  
Contact: Brenda Wisner

**South Central Human Resources Agency**  
107 N. Porter Street, Suite 5  
Winchester, TN 37398  
931-967-1438  
Contact: Linda Riddle

#### **Additional SCHRA information and other resources are below:**

**South Central Human Resources Agency, Nashville, Tennessee**  
Director, Community Programs  
Department of Human Services  
Citizens Plaza Building, 400 Deaderick Street  
Nashville, **Tennessee** 37248-9500  
TEL: (615) 313-4762 FAX: (615) 532-9956  
PUBLIC INQUIRIES: (615) 313-4766

State of Tennessee, Department of Human Resources, LIHEAP webpage:  
[http://tennessee.gov/humanserv/adfam/afs\\_he.htm](http://tennessee.gov/humanserv/adfam/afs_he.htm)

U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, LIHEAP webpage:  
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap/>

U. S. Department of Energy, Energy Savings information webpage:  
<http://www1.eere.energy.gov/consumer/tips/>

**This message brought to you by your friends at**

**ELK RIVER PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT**  
217 South Jackson Street,  
Tullahoma, Tennessee  
931-455-9311 Coffee County  
931-967-2110 Franklin County  
[www.erpud.com](http://www.erpud.com)



**“Your Hometown Natural Gas Provider Since 1955”**

**AMERICAN PUBLIC GAS ASSOCIATION (APGA)**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **FEDERAL ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

#### **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**

The American Public Gas Association (APGA) has been working on behalf of their member companies and their customers to increase LIHEAP funding. See article below.

#### **Government Releases LIHEAP Funds**

On October 16, 2008, the President directed the Federal Department of Health and Human Services to release \$5.1 billion to the states for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). This is the fully authorized amount of LIHEAP funding provided under the recently-enacted Continuing Resolution for fiscal year 2009. The law requires this funding be provided to states within 30 days of enactment of the resolution which was signed into law on September 30.

Prior to the bill's passage in Congress, APGA sent a letter to Senate and House leadership urging full funding for the LIHEAP program. The letter stated that low-income households spend on average 15 percent of their budget on home energy costs, while other households only spend roughly 3.4 percent of their annual budget on such costs.

The letter went onto say that the need for the funding increase is critical because of the severe decline in the program's purchasing power as a result of continued high energy prices. For example, between FY 2003 and FY 2007 the purchasing power of the average LIHEAP grant for natural gas declined from 58.2 percent to 37.6 percent. Increased funding will make a significant difference to the lives of some of the least-fortunate families across America who often times have to make the difficult decision between paying their energy bills versus paying for other necessities like medication or childcare.

The Energy Bill of 2005 raised the amount of funding authorized for LIHEAP to \$5.1 billion per fiscal year. This was the first time Congress has provided this record level of funding for LIHEAP.

The law stipulates that roughly \$4.51 billion of the funding will be allocated under the regular block grant and about \$590 million be provided in emergency contingency funds to be released at the discretion of the President. States receive the funds based on a formula allocation that is weighted towards states relative cold-weather conditions and households living in poverty. Each state then uses its own formula for distributing its share of the federal funds to its citizens.

If you have any questions about the LIHEAP program please contact Nate Hill by phone at 202-464-2742 or by email at [nhill@apga.org](mailto:nhill@apga.org).

## **LIHEAP Brochure**

**IF YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO PAY YOUR HOME ENERGY BILL, YOUR HOME MAY NOT BE SAFE, AND YOU MAY BE AT RISK OF SERIOUS ILLNESS OR INJURY.**

**THE LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP) MAY BE ABLE TO HELP KEEP YOU AND YOUR FAMILY SAFE AND HEALTHY.**

### **STAY HEALTHY IN YOUR HOME**

Energy assistance is important to all that receive it, but more so if someone in your home is elderly, disabled or a young child under 6 years old. These persons are especially at risk for life threatening illness or death if their home is too cold in the winter or too hot in the summer.

### **BE SAFE IN YOUR HOME**

You can face safety risks if you are unable to pay your home energy bills. Some people resort to unsafe methods to keep their homes warm or cool. These include the use of fireplaces, stoves, improperly vented portable heaters, barbecue grills, or overloading electrical circuits. These methods are not only fire hazards, but also create the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.

**YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR HELP WITH HOME HEATING AND/OR COOLING BILLS.**

### **WHAT IS LIHEAP?**

LIHEAP is a Federally-funded program that helps low-income households with their home energy bills.

LIHEAP can help you stay warm in the winter and cool in the summer. By doing so, you can reduce the risk of health and safety problems (such as illness, fire, or eviction).

The federal government does not provide energy assistance directly to the public. Instead, LIHEAP operates in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Indian tribes or tribal organizations, and the U.S. territories.

### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE LIHEAP ASSISTANCE?**

The LIHEAP program in your community determines if your household's income qualifies for the program. The LIHEAP program may also require households to meet additional eligibility criteria to receive LIHEAP assistance.\*

\*NOTE: The availability of LIHEAP assistance is not guaranteed. Often most of the Federal LIHEAP funds are spent during the winter.

## **WHAT ASSISTANCE DOES LIHEAP PROVIDE?**

Your LIHEAP program may be able to offer you one or more of the following types of assistance:

- Bill payment assistance.
- Energy crisis assistance.
- Weatherization and energy-related home repairs.

## **WHAT INFORMATION DO I NEED TO APPLY? YOU MAY NEED THE FOLLOWING:**

Recent copies of your utility bills.

A recent payroll stub or other proof that shows your current gross income.

Documentation showing income from Social Security, Unemployment Insurance, Pension Funds, disability, etc.

Final Utility Termination Notice (if you've received a shut-off notice from your energy company).

Proof of present address (e.g., rent receipt, lease or deed, property tax bill).

Proof of total members living in your household (e.g., birth certificates, school records, etc.).

Social Security cards (or numbers) for all persons living in your household.

Proof of U.S. citizenship or permanent residence.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT LIHEAP AND WHERE TO APPLY**

You can call the National Energy Assistance Referral (NEAR) project. NEAR is a free service providing information on where you can apply for LIHEAP.

You can speak to someone at NEAR Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m.- 5 p.m. (Mountain Time).

You can:

- Call the toll-free phone number at: **1-866-674-6327**,
- send an e-mail to: [energyassistance@ncat.org](mailto:energyassistance@ncat.org)
- or you can contact your [State's LIHEAP office](#)

This brochure is presented by:

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