



# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –

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Public Information Office

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## **DSS Announces State-Mandated Changes To Low Income Energy Assistance Program**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – The Department of Social Services wants citizens interested in receiving assistance with their heating costs during the cold weather months to be aware that the state of North Carolina has changed the application process and the eligibility requirements for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP).

In the past, applications were taken in November and payments sent directly to recipients in February. Households in the Food and Nutrition Program were automatically approved. That is no longer the case.

Under the state-mandated changes, all households must apply for LIEAP funds; there are no automatic approvals. Also, energy payments will now be made directly to the heating provider, such as power, gas or oil companies during the month of the application.

Applications for persons age 60 and above or disabled persons (receives SSI, SSA or VA disability) who are receiving services through the Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) will be taken from **December 1, 2011**, through **January 31, 2012**, or until funds are exhausted.

*Note: All members of the household must be 60 years of age or older, or at least one household member must be disabled and receiving services through the DAAS.*

If funds remain available after January 31, 2012, any other eligible households may apply during **February** through the end of **March**, or until funds are exhausted.

During the designated periods, applications will be taken at the Salvation Army located at 1047 Southern Avenue in Fayetteville. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Applicants must bring in verification of income, Social Security, photo identification, and a current bank statement, if applicable.

For more information, contact the Cumberland County Department of Social Services at (910) 323-1540 or the LIEAP message line at (910) 677-2821.

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State of North Carolina  
Department of Health and Human Services

For Release: Immediate  
Contact: Lori Walston, 919-855-4840

Date: November 2, 2011

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## North Carolina Division of Social Services Announces Changes to Low Income Energy Assistance Program

RALEIGH—The North Carolina Division of Social Services has evaluated and updated the application process and eligibility requirements for the state's Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) in accordance with changes mandated by the General Assembly.

Citizens interested in receiving assistance with their heating costs during the cold-weather months need to be aware of these changes to the application process and the eligibility requirements for the LIEAP benefit.

In the past, applications were taken in November and payments were sent directly to program recipients in February. Households participating in the Food and Nutrition Services Program (formerly called Food Stamps) were automatically approved. That is no longer the case. Under the program changes, ALL households must meet income and resource eligibility requirements and must apply for LIEAP funds; there are no longer automatic approvals.

In addition, at the direction of the General Assembly, energy payments will now be made directly to the service provider, such as power, gas or oil companies during the month of the application.

Applications for persons age 60 and above or disabled persons (receives SSI, SSA or VA disability) who are receiving services through the Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) will be taken from **December 1, 2011**, through **January 31, 2012**, or until funds are exhausted.

***Note: All members of the household must be 60 years of age or older, or at least one household member must be disabled and receiving services through the DAAS.***

If funds remain available after January 31, 2012, any other eligible households may apply during **February** through the end of **March**.

For more information, please contact your local county department of social services. A list of these offices and contact information is available at [www.ncdhhs.gov/dss/local/](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dss/local/).

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