



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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**ENERGY ASSISTANCE BEGINS NOVEMBER 1
PROGRAM HELPS MANAGE ENERGY COSTS**

RICHMOND, KY - Kentucky River Foothills will begin the "Subsidy" portion of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) on Tuesday, November 1. LIHEAP provides financial assistance to income-eligible households with home heating costs through two programs: LIHEAP Subsidy (typically in November and December) and LIHEAP Crisis (typically January through March 31 or until all funds are expended).

Both homeowners and renters who are responsible for their heating bills and have low or fixed incomes are eligible.

Qualifying participants will receive an energy assistance benefit. Energy services include electric, gas, kerosene, propane or wood. Eligible participants do not need to have an unpaid energy bill or be out of fuel to receive energy assistance in the subsidy portion of this program. The benefit amount that each household receives will be based on its level of poverty and the type of fuel used for heating. All eligible households will receive a benefit until LIHEAP funds are fully depleted. Benefits will be made payable to the household's primary or secondary heating fuel vendor.

A household is considered to be eligible for energy assistance when the household meets the basic eligibility criteria. This criteria includes:

1. completion of an application;
2. is responsible for home energy costs, directly or as an undesignated portion of their rent;
3. have a combined household income, for the calendar month prior to the month of application, not in excess of 130% of the federal poverty level as listed in the Income Eligibility Guidelines;
4. live in Kentucky when the application is made and apply in the county of residence; and
5. not have liquid resources in excess of \$2,000, or \$3,000 if at least one person in the household is 60 or older: and/or disabled except for households where a member has a catastrophic illness. The amount may be \$4,000 when the resources are being accessed for medical and living expenses.

APPLICANTS MUST BRING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

1. most recent heating bill, or verification that heating expenses are included in rent;
2. metered utility bill (natural gas, electric, or water) as proof of address;
3. Social Security cards, or Permanent Residence card (Green Card) for each member of household;
4. proof of all household income from preceding month.

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LIHEAP has established income guidelines to determine eligibility. For the 2016-2017 program year, the income guidelines are:

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Gross Monthly Income</u>
1	\$1,287
2	\$1,736
3	\$2,184
4	\$2,633
5	\$3,081
6	\$3,530
7	\$3,980
8	\$4,430

**Add \$451 for each additional family member*

When the crisis component begins in January, a household shall be considered to be in a home heating crisis situation when the household meets the basic LIHEAP eligibility criteria and: (1) the household is within four days of running out of fuel if bulk fuel (coal, fuel oil, propane, kerosene, or wood) is the heat source; (2) the household has received a disconnect notice if natural gas or electric is the heat source; or (3) the household's home heating costs are included as an undesignated portion of the rent, and the household has received an eviction notice for non-payment of rent from the landlord.

Applications will be taken Monday through Friday from 8 am-4 pm at these locations:

CLARK COUNTY: 32 Meadow Lane, Winchester, KY, 859-744-3235

MADISON COUNTY: 1506 E Irvine Street, Richmond, KY, 859-623-6514

ESTILL COUNTY: 111 Collins Street, Irvine, KY, 606-723-4492

POWELL COUNTY: 176 12th Street, Clay City, KY, 606-663-2659

In Madison County, applications will also be taken Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 am-noon at the Berea Senior Center located at 214 W. Jefferson Street. Their phone number is 859-986-8350.

Applications are taken in order of the last name of the head of the household. Choose the date on the calendar that contains the first letter of your last name (schedule below). Applications will be taken through December 9, 2016. If you cannot apply on your assigned day, contact the office in your county to make other arrangements. Individuals who are unable to apply for themselves may send an authorized individual to apply for them. If this is the case, please contact the Foothills office in advance. If you are sick or have the flu, please call the Outreach Office first to make other arrangements.

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SCHEDULE	
Nov. 1	A
Nov. 2	B
Nov. 3	B
Nov. 4	C
Nov. 7	C
Nov. 8	Election Day
Nov. 9	D, E
Nov. 10	F
Nov. 11	Veteran's Day
Nov. 14	G
Nov. 15	H
Nov. 16	H
Nov. 17	I, J
Nov. 18	K
Nov. 21	L
Nov. 22	M
Nov. 23	Staff Day
Nov. 24	Closed
Nov. 25	Closed
Nov. 28	M
Nov. 29	N
Nov. 30	O, P
Dec. 1	Q, R
Dec. 2	S
Dec. 5	S
Dec. 6	T
Dec. 7	U, V, W
Dec. 8	X, Y, Z
Dec. 9	Open

LIHEAP is a statewide initiative sponsored by Community Action Kentucky in partnership with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS). The U.S. Department for Health and Human Services appropriates funding to Kentucky through the CHFS, which contracts with Community Action Agencies across the state to receive LIHEAP applications and provide recipient benefits.

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