



## Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor / Jack Lavin, Director

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### **Assistance Program To Help Pay Winter Heating Bills Is Underway** *Liheap Expected To Benefit 300,000 Illinois Households*

CHICAGO -- Governor Rod R. Blagojevich today announced that the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in Illinois is now underway for the upcoming winter season. Illinois households with disabled or elderly members, and those who are disconnected from their heat source, may now apply for heating assistance at locations throughout the state (Editors see attached list).

"With natural gas prices expected to increase dramatically, we are encouraging all potentially eligible or vulnerable households to apply for LIHEAP as soon as possible," Governor Blagojevich said. "In the meantime, everyone should continue to try and pay something on their utility bill and work with the utility company to avoid disconnection."

Total funding for LIHEAP this winter is approximately \$144 million, with \$79 million from the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Block Grant and \$65 million from the state's Supplemental Low Income Energy Assistance fund. LIHEAP funds are administered through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO).

"A sluggish economy, coupled with the high cost of natural gas, makes LIHEAP a critical program that can help ensure our families are warm and safe this winter," said DCEO Director Jack Lavin.

The energy assistance program is geared to households with incomes up to 150% of the federal poverty guidelines. A family of one can have a monthly income of no more than \$1,123, a two person household no more than \$1,515 and a family of four an income no greater than \$2,300. Benefits are provided directly to the household's gas or electric utility or delivered fuel dealer for households that heat with fuel oil or propane.

The months of September and October are set aside for households with elderly or disabled members and those disconnected from their heat source. All other households may begin submitting applications on November 1, 2003.

Benefits include payments to utilities or fuel dealers on behalf of eligible households to help reduce energy bills, and emergency assistance to help disconnected households regain energy services. In limited instances where heat is included in rent, and rent is greater than 30 percent of a household's income, a small cash payment may be made directly to the household.

LIHEAP is operated throughout the state by a network of local agencies that work with utilities, determine eligibility and provide benefits to households. Anyone wishing to apply should contact the local agency in the county where they live. Additional assistance is available by calling the toll-free LIHEAP information line at 1-800-252-8643.

#### Local Agencies providing LIHEAP assistance:

BCMW Community Services, Inc.  
909 E. Rexford Street in Centralia  
618/594-4146  
Counties Served: Bond, Clinton, Marion and Washington

Carver Community Action Agency  
235 E. Main Street in Galesburg  
309/342-0158  
County Served: Knox

C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity Corporation  
1805 S. Banker Street in Effingham  
217/342-2193  
Counties Served: Christian, Clay, Effingham, Fayette, Montgomery, Moultrie and Shelby

Central Illinois Economic Development Corp.  
1800 5th Street in Lincoln  
217/732-2159  
Counties Served: DeWitt, Logan, Mason, Menard and Piatt

Community and Economic Dev. Association of Cook County, Inc. (CEDA)  
208 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 850 in Chicago  
312/207-5444 or 312/795-8844  
Suburban Cook County (Outside City of Chicago)

CEDA-Chicago Project  
208 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 850 in Chicago  
312/207-5444 or 312/795-8844  
City of Chicago

Community Contacts, Inc.

1035 E. State Street in Geneva  
630/232-7600 (Kane)  
815/758-3835 (DeKalb)  
Counties Served: DeKalb and Kane

Decatur-Macon County Opportunities Corp.  
1122 E. Marietta Street in Decatur  
217/428-0155  
County Served: Macon

DuPage County Dept. of Human Resources  
421 N. County Farm Road in Wheaton  
630/682-7000  
County Served: DuPage

East Central Illinois Community Action Agency, Inc.  
56 N. Vermilion Street in Danville  
217/433-2705  
Counties Served: Ford, Iroquois and Vermilion

Embarras River Basin Agency, Inc.  
400 W. Pleasant  
217/923-3113  
Counties Served: Clark, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland, Douglas, Edgar, Jasper, Lawrence and Richland

Fulton County Health Dept.  
700 East Oak Street in Canton  
309/647-1134  
County Served: Fulton

Illinois Valley Economic Development Corporation  
223 S. Macoupin in Gillespie  
217/839-4431  
Counties Served: Calhoun, Greene, Jersey and Macoupin

Kankakee County Community Services, Inc.  
657 East Court Street  
815/933-7883  
County Served: Kankakee

Kendall-Grundy Community Action  
500A Countryside Center in Yorkville

630/553-9100 (Kendall)  
815/941-3262 (Grundy)  
Counties Served: Grundy and Kendall

Community Action Partnership of Lake County  
102-106 S. Sheridan Road in Waukegan  
847/249-4330  
County Served: Lake

Madison County Community Development  
130 Hillsboro Avenue, Suite 102 in Edwardsville  
618/692-6200  
County Served: Madison

McHenry County Housing Authority  
1108 N. Seminary in Woodstock  
815/338-7752  
County Served: McHenry

MCS Community Services  
345 W. State Street in Jacksonville  
217/243-9404  
Counties Served: Cass, Morgan and Scott

Mid Central Community Action, Inc.  
923 E. Grove Street in Bloomington  
309/829-0691 (McLean)  
815/844-3201 (Livingston)  
Counties Served: Livingston and McLean

Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency  
103-109 N. Chicago Avenue in Freeport  
815/232-3141  
Counties Served: JoDaviess and Stephenson

Peoria Citizens Committee for Economic Opportunity, Inc.  
711 W. McBean Street in Peoria  
309/671-3900  
County Served: Peoria

Project NOW, Inc.  
418 19th Street in Rock Island

309/852-4565

Counties Served: Henry, Mercer and Rock Island

Rockford Human Services Department

612 N. Church in Rockford

815/987-5782

Counties Served: Boone and Winnebago

Sangamon County Department of Community Resources

200 S. 9th Street, Room 311 in Springfield

217/535-3120

County Served: Sangamon

Shawnee Development Council, Inc.

530 W. Washington in Karnak

618/634-2201

Counties Served: Alexander, Hardin, Johnson, Massac, Pope, Pulaski and Union

St. Clair County Community Action Agency

19 Public Square, Suite 200 in Belleville

618/277-6790

27 N. Illinois Street in Belleville

618/257-9246

County Served: St. Clair

Tazwood Community Services, Inc

Field Shopping Center, 2005 S. Main Street in Morton

309/266-9941

Counties Served: Tazewell and Woodford

Tri-County Opportunities Council

405 Emmons Avenue in Rock Falls

815/625-7830

Counties Served: Bureau, Carroll, LaSalle, Lee, Marshall, Ogle, Putnam, Stark and Whiteside

Two Rivers Regional Council of Public Officials

1891 Maine Street, Suite 4 in Quincy

217/224-8171

Counties Served: Adams, Brown, Pike and Schuyler

Urban League of Champaign County

314 S. Neil Street in Champaign

217/363-3333

County Served: Champaign

Crosswalk Community Action Agency

410 W. Main Street in West Frankfort

618/937-3581

Counties Served: Franklin, Jefferson and Williamson

Wabash Area Development, Inc.

110 Latham Street in Enfield

618/965-3458

Counties Served: Edwards, Gallatin, Hamilton, Saline, Wabash, Wayne and White

Western Egyptian Economic Opportunity Council

1 Industrial Park in Steeleville

618/939-8715

Counties Served: Jackson, Monroe, Perry and Randolph

Western Illinois Regional Council

223 S. Randolph Street in Macomb

309/837-2997

Counties Served: Hancock, Henderson, McDonough, and Warren

Will County Center for Community Concerns

304 N. Scott Street in Joliet

815/722-0722

County Served: Will

The Hearing impaired may access all numbers through the State TDD Relay: 800/526-0844



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