

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ELIGIBLE MISSOURIANS CAN RECEIVE HEATING ASSISTANCE

Department of Social Services, Division of Family Services Offices across Missouri began taking applications today for home heating assistance. Applications for assistance under the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) will be accepted until March 31, 2003, if funds are available. LIHEAP provides financial assistance to help eligible Missourians pay heating bills from November through March.

Eligibility for LIHEAP is based on household income, resources, and the number of people living in the home. The amount of benefits received is based on the type of fuel used for heating and the area of the state in which the applicant lives. Eligible households receive a one-time payment during the home heating season. **It is not necessary for applicants to be recipients of public assistance benefits in order to qualify for this program.**

For more information about LIHEAP eligibility requirements, benefit amounts and application procedures, individuals should contact their local Division of Family Services Office.

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