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City Gives \$25,000 To CAA For Fans, A/C Units

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Cincinnati city leaders issued a plea Friday for funds to help buy air conditioners and fans for people needing to cool off in this hot weather.

The call for action came as the health officials declared a Heat Alert because the temperature and humidity were forecast to be 95-degrees or higher.

It coincided with the city's donation of \$25,000 to the Cincinnati/Hamilton County Community Action Agency (CCA) to start the fund raising effort.

The money came from the budget of city manager Milton Dohoney, Jr.

"When we were growing up we were taught that air conditioning was some sort of luxury," said Mayor Mark Mallory. "It is not a luxury. It is actually a necessity. It is a

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health need."

CAA had budgeted \$200,000 for summer heat relief, but those federal and state dollars were cut and the money used to cover winter heating bills.

That left more than 1,800 people without requested cooling devices.

"We do need other organizations in the community to step in and work in partnership with the CAA," Dohoney said.

Community Action Agency executive director Gwen Robinson said the city's money will help about 200 people.

Fans and air conditioners have already been ordered and will be delivered on Tuesday to the organization's Bond Hill headquarters.

Dr. Larry Holditch, medical director of the Cincinnati Health Department, said the heat alert means people should use common sense and take extra precautions.

He urged people to exercise early in the morning or at night to avoid the hottest part of the day.

Drink plenty of water or Gatorade [for electrolytes], he added.

"Another thing that is very important is checking on your neighbors every day," Dr. Holditch said. "A lot of older people don't sense heat the way young people do."

The people with the highest risk factor are the very old or the very young, Dr. Holditch said.

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