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## HEAP Summer Crisis Program Starts July 3

(Cincinnati, OH) – The Ohio Development Services Agency and the Community Action Agency of Cincinnati | Hamilton County (CAA) will help income-eligible residents of Hamilton County stay cool during the hot summer months. The Home Energy Assistance Summer Crisis Program provides eligible Ohioans assistance paying an electric bill or assistance paying for central air conditioning repairs. The program runs from July 3 until August 31.

“July and August can be two extremely hot months in Ohio, and that can take a toll on older Ohioans and Ohioans with breathing conditions,” said David Goodman, director of the Ohio Development Services Agency.

The Summer Crisis Program assists low-income households with an older household member (60 years or older), or households that can provide physician documentation that cooling assistance is needed for a household member’s health. Conditions can include lung disease, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, or asthma.

Eligible households can receive up to \$300 if they are a customer of a regulated utility, or \$500 if they are a customer of unregulated utilities such as electric cooperatives and municipal utilities. The assistance is applied to their utility bill or applied to central air conditioning repair costs. Ohioans must have a gross income at or below 175 percent of the federal poverty guidelines to qualify for assistance. For a family of four the annual income must be at or below \$43,050.

Ohioans enrolled in the Percentage of Income Payment Plan Plus Program (PIPP Plus) are not eligible for bill payment assistance through the program, but are encouraged to work with CAA to identify other opportunities for assistance.

CAA will begin taking appointments for the Summer Crisis Program on June 26. Those wanting to schedule an appointment for emergency assistance are able to call the hotline at (513) 569-1850. Assistance will also be available through CAA outreach sites including St. Vincent de Paul Winton Terrace, Churches Active in Northside and Freestore Foodbank.

HEAP’s programs are designed to assist Hamilton County residents with their utility bills and are federally-funded and administered across the state by the Ohio Department of Development. For more information on HEAP or any of the programs offered by CAA, please visit [www.cincy-caa.org](http://www.cincy-caa.org).