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CAA Helps Area Residents “Beat the Heat” this Summer

Summer Cooling Program offers help with utility bills, AC repairs

Cincinnati, OH – Summer is here and temperatures are on the rise in Hamilton County. Fortunately, help is available for residents who cannot afford to cool their homes during hot, humid weather.

The Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency (CAA) is once again offering assistance to eligible residents through the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP).

HEAP’s Summer Crisis Cooling Program runs from July 3 until Aug. 31, 2017. It can provide help paying an electric bill or paying for central air conditioning repairs.

“With rising utility costs, we anticipate an even greater need for the program this summer,” said Gwen L. Robinson, CAA’s President and CEO. “We are here to help those who are most vulnerable to the extreme summer heat.”

The Summer Crisis Program assists low-income households that includes an older person (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 is now accepting appointments for the Summer Crisis Program. Those wanting to schedule an appointment for emergency assistance should call the hotline at (513) 569-1850.

Assistance will also be available through CAA's outreach sites including St. Vincent de Paul in Winton Terrace, Churches Active in Northside and the Freestore Foodbank.

HEAP's programs are designed to assist Hamilton County residents with their utility bills and are federally-funded 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.

For more information, please contact Kevin Osborne, CAA's Community Relations Director, at (513) 516-1966 or via email at kosborne@cincy-caa.org.