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PRESS RELEASE

Low Income Energy Assistance Program Begins December 1, 2019

Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) is a federally funded program that provides a *one-time* annual vendor payment to help eligible families pay their *heating expense* during the cold-weather months. Randolph County Department of Social Services will begin accepting applications for North Carolina's LIEAP on December 1, 2019 for those households containing an elderly person, age 60 and above, or a disabled person who receives services through the Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS). Other eligible households, regardless of age or disability, may apply between January 1 until March 31, 2020 or until funds are exhausted.

Energy assistance available through a County Department of Social Services (DSS) consists of two programs. In addition to LIEAP, the Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) is also a federally-funded program that serves individuals and families who are experiencing a heating (or cooling) related crisis. A household is in a crisis if it is currently experiencing or is in danger of experiencing a life-threatening or health-related emergency and sufficient, timely, and appropriate assistance is not available from any other source. Life-threatening is defined as a household which has no heating or cooling source or has a disconnect notice for their primary heating or cooling service and the health or well-being of a household member would be in danger if the heating or cooling crisis was not alleviated. CIP begins in July of each year when funding is allocated and continues until the allocation is exhausted or until the end of the fiscal year the following June, whichever comes first.

Households who need assistance through either program must complete an application. Eligibility is determined using income and resources. If determined eligible, payment is made directly to the service provider. In Randolph County, this year's budget for both LIEAP and CIP is \$1.2 million. Last fiscal year, Randolph County DSS processed 2,099 LIEAP applications and 2,793 CIP applications that paid a total benefit amount of \$1.08 million to vendors/service providers on behalf of Randolph County citizens.

Citizens interested in applying for either LIEAP or CIP may review the application process and eligibility requirements at <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dss/energy/req.htm>. Applications will be taken in-person at your local DSS. In Randolph County, interested citizens may visit either the Asheboro location of 1512 N. Fayetteville Street, Asheboro, NC or the Archdale Outstation at 402 Balfour Drive, Archdale, NC. For more information, please contact Randolph County Department of Social Services at (336) 683-8000 or visit <http://www.co.randolph.nc.us/dss/>

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www.randolphcountync.gov/Departments/Social-Services

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