

# UNION COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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## News Release

### DSS Gets More Money to Help with Heating Costs

**February 10, 2012, Monroe, NC** – The Union County Department of Social Services (DSS) has received more money for its Low Income Energy Assistance (LIEAP) and Crisis Intervention (CIP) programs. DSS is currently accepting applications for citizens interested in receiving assistance with their heating on Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. at the DSS office at 1212 W. Roosevelt Boulevard in Monroe. Applications will be taken until March 31 or until funds are depleted.

As of Feb. 1, anyone may apply for LIEAP assistance. These items will help in determining eligibility:

- Income requirements must be met by providing verifying documentation of income
- Statement or bill with an account number, from the primary heating source, in the name of a household member
- Names, social security numbers, dates of birth, and residency information for all household members
- Checking or savings account information
- Information regarding daycare expenses or legally-ordered child support to someone outside the household

If a person is determined eligible, a one-time payment will be sent to the heating vendor to be credited to the heating account. This program is not intended to assist those in a heating-related crisis, and takes the place of the automatic “energy check” sent to Food & Nutrition Services recipients in recent years.

Union County residents experiencing a heating-related crisis may apply for CIP. These funds provide a payment to the vendor to prevent disconnection of the primary heating source. Households must:

- Provide information regarding household income and meet an income test
- Be in a heating or cooling-related emergency and provide a disconnect notice from the utilities company or be in jeopardy of a diminished fuel supply
- Provide household members’ names, dates of birth, and social security numbers
- Funds are available until depleted.

For more information call Union County DSS at 704-296-6195.