

UNION COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

P.O. BOX 489
MONROE, NORTH CAROLINA 28111

Nathel Hailey, Chairman
Barbara Liner, Vice Chairman
Patricia Kahle
Florence Miller
Nancy Horak Randall



1212 W. Roosevelt Boulevard
Monroe, NC 28110
Telephone (704) 296-4300
Fax (704) 296-6151
Suzanne Moose, *Interim Director*

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News Release

Heating Assistance Offered Through LIEAP

December 21, 2012, Monroe, NC – The Union County Department of Social Services (DSS) is accepting applications for citizens interested in receiving assistance with their heating costs during the cold-weather months.

Potential recipients of a one-time benefit from the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) must be 60 years old or older or disabled and receiving services from the Division of Aging and Adult Services. These include home-delivered meals or nutrition site meals from Union County Nutrition for the Elderly or In-Home Aide services provided through DSS or the Council on Aging.

Applications will be taken until Jan. 31. Households without a member in the specified target groups listed above may apply to receive benefits beginning Feb. 1. This is a first-come, first-served program in which funds are distributed until they are gone.

Certain income and reserve criteria also apply. Households meet income eligibility requirements if the total household members' countable income in the month prior to application is equal to or less than 130 percent of the current poverty level. Maximum countable income for a household of one is \$1,210 and \$1,640 for a household of two. Maximum countable resource limit is \$2,200.

For more information about the application process, contact the Union County DSS information line at 704-296-6195.

Those applying should bring the following information, for all household members, to the interview - Social Security numbers, birthdates, citizenship status, daycare expense receipts, legally-ordered child support paid to someone outside your household, income information and proof of income for all household members for the month prior to the month of application (paycheck stubs or income statements showing funds received during the month) and receipt, bill, or statement from the power, gas, or fuel oil company for your primary heat-source, in the name of someone in the household, and showing an account number.

If approved, an assistance payment will be made directly to the heating provider. For more information, please contact DSS at 704-296-6136. Spanish communication is available by calling 704-296-6173.

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