



Office of Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Sept. 18, 2015

LIHEAP OFFERS HELP WITH ENERGY COSTS

Rockford – Information is now available for the annual Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) for eligible residents in Winnebago and Boone Counties. LIHEAP pays a benefit directly to energy companies on behalf of eligible households or directly to eligible renters if all energy costs are included in their rent.

There are many area sites that will be taking phone calls for appointments during the LIHEAP season. Handouts with site lists, program information, eligibility criteria and call-in schedules are available at the City of Rockford Human Services Department, 555 N. Court St., Suite 301, Belvidere City Hall, 401 Whitney Blvd. and the Boone County United Way, 220 W. Locust St. You must have this information before you call to make an appointment. You can also find information at www.rockfordil.gov.

Residents can begin calling the sites serving their category on the following dates to make an appointment: October 1 for seniors and disabled households, November 2 for disconnected households and households with children under 6 years old, and December 1 for the general public. Residents who were not able to receive an appointment during their category month can continue to call monthly on the dates listed on the site list, or until funds are exhausted

Please note that LIHEAP begins a month later this season and there are changes to the benefits in the program which are listed in the handout. Also, the Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) will not be an option offered to eligible clients at this time.

LIHEAP is a program of the IL Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Office of Energy Assistance funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and administered locally by the City of Rockford Human Services Department, A Community Action Agency.

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2015 - 2016

LISTS OF LIHEAP SITES AND SCHEDULES

For Winnebago and Boone Counties

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) is a program for eligible residents in Winnebago and Boone Counties. LIHEAP pays a benefit directly to energy companies on behalf of eligible households, or directly to eligible renters if all energy costs are included in their rent.

◆ Residents can **begin** calling for appointments according to the attached schedule. Sites schedule a set number of appointments per month in order to allow time for processing applications. Applications are filled out at the appointment and not available in advance. If you did not receive an appointment during your call-in month, you can try again beginning at 8:00am on the dates listed.

◆ Appointments are made by phone only on a first come, first served basis - no walk-ins. Please be advised that because of the high demand for this assistance, you may experience phone delays. We apologize for this inconvenience.

◆ You will see a decrease in your regular LIHEAP benefit, called the Direct Vendor Payment (DVP). It will be 12% less this year.

◆ If you are disconnected and applying for Reconnection Assistance (RA), the maximum benefit amount has been reduced this year. The RA amount, plus your Direct Vendor Payment, needs to be enough money to pay your entire bill in order to turn on your service. If you are not able to make up the difference, the application will be denied due to "Client Portion Required" (CPR). When you are able to make a personal payment directly to the utility to make up the difference, then you can reapply for assistance.

◆ The program continues until May 31, 2016 or ends sooner if funds run out. You can only receive a LIHEAP Direct Vendor Payment (DVP) ONCE during this program year. Households who become disconnected after applying, contact our office.

◆ Please review the attached documentation needed and income guidelines before calling for an appointment. Please note that applying for LIHEAP funds does not guarantee assistance.

◆ *PIPP (Percentage of Income Payment Plan) will not be available at this time*

2015 - 2016 DATES and SITES TO CALL for APPOINTMENTS

NO WALK-INS

| <p>SENIORS (age 60 and above) and DISABLED (not pending)</p> | <p>DISCONNECTED HOUSEHOLDS AND HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN UNDER 6</p> | <p>GENERAL PUBLIC</p> |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Oct. 1, Nov. 2, Dec. 1, Jan. 4 Feb. 1, March 1, April 1, May 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> | <p>Nov. 2, Dec. 1, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, March 1, April 1, May 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> | <p><u>Dec. 1, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, March 1 April 1, May 2</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> |
| <p>Lifescape Community Services 815-963-1609 <i>Seniors</i> 705 Kilburn Ave. Rockford <i>(No disconnected households)</i></p> | <p>City of Rockford Human Services 844-710-6919 555 N. Court St. #301 Rockford</p> | <p>City of Rockford Human Services 844-710-6919 555 N. Court St. #301 Rockford</p> |
| <p>City of Rockford Human Services 844-710-6919 555 N. Court St. #301 Rockford</p> | <p>Central Terrace Co-op 815-962-4112 <i>Rockford Residents Only</i> 1121 Bishop Washington Ave. Rockford <i>(No disconnected households)</i></p> | <p>Central Terrace Co-op 815-962-4112 <i>Rockford Residents Only</i> 1121 Bishop Washington Ave. Rockford <i>(No disconnected households)</i></p> |
| <p>Northwestern Illinois Area Agency on Aging (NIAAA) 779-221-3717 <i>Seniors</i> 1111 S. Alpine Rd, Suite 600, Rockford <i>(No disconnected households)</i></p> | <p>Rockton Township 815-624-7788 <i>Residents of Roscoe, Rockton, S. Beloit, Durand, Shirland, Machesney Park, Loves Park, Incorporated Areas of Winnebago County only</i> 1315 N. Blackhawk Blvd., Rockton</p> | <p>Rockton Township 815-624-7788 <i>Residents of Roscoe, Rockton, S. Beloit, Durand, Shirland, Machesney Park, Loves Park and Incorporated Areas of Winnebago County only</i> 1315 N. Blackhawk Blvd., Rockton</p> |
| <p>Central Terrace Co-op 815-962-4112 <i>Rockford Residents Only</i> 1121 Bishop Washington Ave. Rockford <i>(No disconnected households)</i></p> | <p>St. Bridget Parish Center 815-877-1664 <i>Residents of Machesney Park & Loves Park only</i> 704 Clifford Ave., Loves Park <i>(No disconnected households)</i></p> | <p>St. Bridget Parish Center 815-877-1664 <i>Residents of Machesney Park & Loves Park only</i> 704 Clifford Ave., Loves Park <i>(No disconnected households)</i></p> |
| <p>Rockton Township 815-624-7788 <i>Residents of Roscoe, Rockton, S. Beloit, Durand, Shirland, Machesney Park, Loves Park and Incorporated areas of Winnebago County only</i> 1315 N. Blackhawk Blvd., Rockton</p> | <p>United Way of Boone County 815-544-3144 <i>Boone County Residents</i> 220 W. Locust St. Belvidere</p> | <p>United Way of Boone County 815-544-3144 <i>Boone County Residents</i> 220 W. Locust St. Belvidere</p> |
| <p>St. Bridget Parish Center 815-877-1664 <i>Residents of Machesney Park; Loves Park only</i> 704 Clifford Ave., Loves Park <i>(No disconnected households)</i></p> | | |
| <p>Boone County Council on Aging Keen Age Center 815-544-9893 <i>Seniors and Boone County Residents Only</i> 2141 Henry Luckow Lane, Belvidere <i>(No disconnected households)</i></p> | | |
| <p>United Way of Boone County 815-544-3144 <i>Boone County Residents</i> 220 W. Locust St. Belvidere</p> | | |

NEEDED DOCUMENTATION FOR APPLICANTS

- Photo ID issued by a third party, such as driver's license, state ID, work ID, college ID, FOID card
- Proof of gross income from all household members 18 years and older for the 30-day period prior to the application date. This includes TANF and other public benefits, child support, as well as wages and other forms of income (such as SSI, SSDI, etc.)
- A copy of current heat and electric bills, both front and back, that includes name and address, issued within the last 30 days.
- If both utilities are included in rent, a copy of rental agreement showing that utilities are included, the monthly rental amount and landlord contact information.
- Social Security cards for all household members. If using a Social Security Card, it cannot be a copy. Certified birth certificates will be accepted in place of Social Security Cards for children under the age of 6 months. Hospital birth certificates are NOT accepted (unless a child is under 1 month old).
- ONLY IF ENTIRE HOUSEHOLD IS CLAIMING ZERO INCOME, you must provide proof that the household receives PUBLIC benefits, such as SNAP/Link, public housing verification, or a letter from someone who is supporting you.
- If applying during the seniors and disabled sign up period, households must contain a member who is elderly (age 60 and above), or, if resident is under 60 and disabled, must bring in proof of social security disability benefits. Pending disability is NOT accepted. Disability includes SSI, SSDI, Vet Disability, or AABD
- If applying during the households with child(ren) under 6 sign up period, child must still be 5 yrs. on date of application; must prove age with birth certificate or Medicaid card with birthdate.
- In specific circumstances, additional documents may be requested.

INCOME REQUIREMENTS

| Household Size | Total household 30 day income no more than: | Total household annual Income no more than: |
|-------------------|--|---|
| 1 | \$1,471 | \$17,655 |
| 2 | \$1,991 | \$23,895 |
| 3 | \$2,511 | \$30,135 |
| 4 | \$3,031 | \$36,375 |
| 5 | \$3,551 | \$42,615 |
| 6 | \$4,071 | \$48,855 |
| 7 | \$4,591 | \$55,095 |
| 8 | \$5,111 | \$61,335 |
| 9 | \$5,631 | \$67,575 |
| 10 | \$6,151 | \$73,815 |