



Office of Mayor Lawrence J.  
Morrissey

LEADING BOLDLY. WORKING TOGETHER

## PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**August 29, 2011**

### **LIHEAP ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM** **FOR SENIORS AND DISABLED BEGINS SEPT. 1**

**Rockford** – The City of Rockford Human Services Dept., along with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Office of Energy Assistance, announces that seniors and people with disabilities can begin applying for winter heating assistance through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) beginning Sept. 1.

LIHEAP is a state and federally funded energy assistance program for low income families, in which heating bill payments are made on behalf of households.

A single person household can qualify with a monthly income of up to \$1,361; a two-person household up to \$1,839; and a family of four can earn up to \$2,794. Benefits are paid directly to utilities on behalf of eligible households. The exception is households whose heating costs are included in their rent.

For the first time, some LIHEAP clients will have the option of choosing between the traditional Direct Vendor Payment (DVP) plan or the new Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP). The PIPP is available to eligible LIHEAP clients who are customers of ComEd and Nicor Gas. Under PIPP, the eligible client will pay a percentage of their income, receive a monthly benefit towards their utility bill, and receive a reduction in overdue payments for every on-time payment they make by the bill due date. The traditional DVP plan is a one-time payment.

Clients must bring all required documentation when applying for assistance including:

- State photo ID, i.e. Driver's License or Illinois State ID
- Proof of gross income from all household members for the 30-day period prior to the application date.
- A copy of current heat and electric bills issued within the last 30 days (if they pay for their energy directly).
- A copy of a rental agreement, lease or rent receipt (if they are renting).
- Proof of Social Security numbers for all household members.

- Proof that their household received TANF or other benefits, such as Medical Eligibility or SNAP, if receiving assistance from the Illinois Department of Human Services.

Households with children under the age of five and disconnected households can begin applying for assistance beginning October 1. Individuals not eligible for priority enrollment can apply beginning November 1. The list of sites participating in the October and November sign-ups will be released at a later date. Clients will be served on a first-come first-served basis until funding is exhausted.

The sites listed below will be serving as intake sites for Seniors and Disabled and will begin taking phone calls for appointments beginning September 1. Please note that the City of Rockford Human Services Department will not be taking calls for appointments.

## **2011 LIHEAP sites for seniors and disabled**

### **Lifescape Community Services**

705 Kilburn Ave., Rockford

815-963-1609

*Disabled that are head of household and Seniors*

*English and Spanish Available*

### **Northwestern Illinois Area Agency on Aging (NIAAA)**

1111 S. Alpine Rd. Suite 600, Rockford

815-226-4901

*Seniors only*

*English and Spanish Available*

### **Rep. Chuck Jefferson's Office**

200 S. Wyman St., Rockford

815-987-7433

*Seniors and Disabled*

*English Only*

### **Rockton Township**

1315 N. Blackhawk Blvd., Rockton

815-389-0914 815-624-7788

*Seniors and Disabled*

*English Only*

*Roscoe, Rockton, S. Beloit Residents Only*

### **Boone County Council on Aging**

2141 Henry Luckow Lane, Belvidere

815-544-9893

*Seniors Only*

*English and Spanish Available*

*Boone County Residents Only*

### **United Way of Boone County**

220 W. Locust St., Belvidere

815-544-3144

***Disabled***

*English only*

*Boone County Residents Only*

**ALERTA**

130 N. State St., Belvidere

815-547-3800

***Disabled***

*English and Spanish Available*

*Boone County Residents Only*

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