



*Office of Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey  
LEADING BOLDLY, WORKING TOGETHER*

## PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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July 17, 2012

### **UPDATE-SUMMER COOLING PROGRAM OFFERS ENERGY ASSISTANCE**

In response to high summer temperatures, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Summer Cooling Program will be offered for a limited time to assist qualified Winnebago and Boone County households with their electric bill. The program's benefit is a \$150 payment to a household's electric provider. Household incomes must be equal to or less than 150 percent of the poverty level as defined in the 2012 HHS Poverty Guidelines and meet the qualifications listed below. This benefit is not available to those households on PIPP (Percentage of Income Payment Plan) nor can households apply for heating benefits during the cooling program application time period.

Applicants who can be included in the following groups can apply by coming to the City of Rockford Human Services Dept., Community Services Division, at 555 N. Court St., Suite 301 no earlier than 8am on the days designated below only. Due to limited funding, we are only able to accept 110 applications per day. For clients' safety, clients cannot line up before 8am. The program will continue until July 26 or until funds are exhausted. There will be no calls taken for appointments

**July 11, 12, 16** - Households that contain a member who is elderly (age 60 and above). Proof of age is required as well as the documents listed below.

**July 17, 18, 19** - Households that contain a member receiving social security disability benefits or with a pending determination case at the Social Security Administration. Required documentation must include a letter of determination from the Social Security Administration or receipt of social security disability benefit statement as well as documents listed below.

(more)

**July 23, 24** - Households that contain a member with a medical condition that can be improved by air conditioning, such as asthma, emphysema, coronary disease and terminal illness. Required documentation must include a doctor's certification letter dated within the last 90 days, stating that the medical condition would be aggravated by extreme heat as well as the documents listed below.

**July 25, 26** - Households that contain children under 5 years of age (60 months) or younger. Proof of age with birth certificate is required as well as documents listed below.

The following documents must be brought in at the time of application. Anyone missing documents will not be seen:

- Social Security cards for all household members
- Photo ID for applicant
- Proof of past 30 day income documentation for all household members over 18 years of age with income
- Com Ed bill less than 60 days old (not a disconnection notice)
- Medical certification from physician dated within the last 90 days (if claiming medical need)
- Birth certificate for children under 5 years of age (if claiming children under 5 as need)
- Households with no documented income must bring in proof of food stamps (LINK) and a letter from friends/family who are assisting the household
- Applicants can be disconnected, but they must submit a bill (not a disconnection notice) received within the last 60 day

**Income eligibility**

<b>Household size</b>	<b>Past 30 day household income</b>
1	\$1,396.25
2	\$1,891.25
3	\$2,386.25
4	\$2,881.25
5	\$3,376.25
6	\$3,871.25
7	\$4,366.25
8	\$4,861.25

If residents have a balance due on their ComEd bill and are having a difficult time paying the bill due to a recent qualifying crisis that can be documented that affected their ability to pay, they may qualify for the ComEd Hardship Program. Please call the office at 815-987-5711 for more information.

The LIHEAP Summer Energy Assistance Program is funded by the Illinois Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and administered locally by the City of Rockford Human Services Department. The total number of clients assisted is limited due to a 20% funding decrease.

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