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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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June 23, 2014

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SUMMER ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM **TO HELP WITH ELECTRIC BILLS**

Rockford – In response to high electric bills, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) will offer a Summer Energy Assistance Program (SEAP) from July 7 throughout July 23, 2014 or until funding is exhausted, whichever occurs first. The SEAP will provide a **\$150** payment to a household's electric provider to assist at-risk Winnebago and Boone County residents with their electric bill. Applicants must have income equal to or less than 150% of the poverty level **AND** must fall into one of these groups:

- Households that contain a member with a medical condition that can be improved by air conditioning, such as asthma, emphysema, respiratory allergies, coronary disease and terminal illnesses. Required documentation must include a doctor's certification letter dated within the last ninety days, stating that the medical condition would be aggravated by extreme heat.
- Households that contain a member who is elderly (age 60 and above)
- Households that contain children age 5 or under (up to 5 years and 364 days old)
- Households that contain a member receiving social security 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.

The SEAP does not provide air conditioners, air conditioner repair or fans. Residents in the Percentage of Income Program (PIPP) do not qualify for the SEAP.

Appointments can be scheduled at area sites beginning July 7 by phone only and are first come, first served. The program continues until July 23 or until funds are exhausted. Residents can pick up a list of participating sites and program information at the City of Rockford Human Services Department, 555 N. Court St., Suite 301 or can find information at <http://www.rockfordil.gov/human-services/community-neighborhood-programs.aspx>. Available slots are limited. No walk-ins will be taken.

The 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, a Community Action Agency.

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