



Contact: Latoya Butler  
lbutler@cedaorg.net

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, August 21, 2017

**Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Enrollment begins October 2, 2017**

*Due to the overwhelming need for assistance, wait times at intake sites will be long and daily intake appointments will be limited.*

Cook County, IL - The priority enrollment period for seniors, (60+), and persons living with disabilities to receive winter energy bill assistance through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) begins October 2.

LIHEAP is a state and federally funded energy assistance program for low-income families. The LIHEAP program offsets the cost of home energy through direct financial assistance as well as energy counseling and education. For LIHEAP eligible households, a bill payment will be made directly to the utility company(s) on behalf the household.

Cook County residents must bring all required documentation when applying for assistance, including:

- Proof of gross income from all adult household members, 18 years or older, for the 30-days prior to the LIHEAP application, including the application date itself.
- Current heating and electric bills, issued within 45 days of applying for LIHEAP assistance.
- If the utilities are included in the rent, a copy of the rental agreement is required as proof.
- Proof of Social Security numbers for all household members. The proof provided must be an original government issued document.
- If applicable, proof that the household receives Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Aid to the Aged, Blind, or Disabled (AABD), or other government benefits.

LIHEAP benefits are paid directly to energy vendors on behalf of eligible households. The exception is households whose heating costs are included in their rent and whose rent is more than 30% of the total household income. A signed lease or Rent Verification Form will be required as proof.

Families with children ages 5 and under at time of application can begin applying for LIHEAP assistance as of November 1, 2017. Households not eligible for priority enrollment can apply for LIHEAP assistance beginning December 1, 2017.

For more information on LIHEAP eligibility or to find an intake center, visit [www.cedaorg.net](http://www.cedaorg.net) or contact the toll free number at (800) 571-CEDA (2332).

Please be aware that wait times may exceed 1 hour due to the high volume of calls during this time of year.

2018 INCOME GUIDELINES									
Family Size		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Gross Income for 30 Days Prior to Application Date	LIHEAP	\$ 1,508	\$ 2,030	\$ 2,553	\$ 3,075	\$ 3,598	\$ 4,120	\$ 4,643	\$ 5,165