

HEAP Summer Crisis Program Begins July 1 at SELF

Supports to Encourage Low-income Families (SELF) and the Ohio Development Services Agency will help income-eligible Butler County residents stay cool during the hot summer months. The Summer Crisis Program provides assistance to **low-income households with an elderly member (60 years or older), or households that can provide physician documentation that cooling assistance is needed for a household member's health.** The Home Energy Assistance Summer Crisis Program provides eligible Ohioans assistance paying an electric bill and/or with an air conditioning unit. The program runs from July 1 until August 31, 2016.

In order to receive help, Butler County residents must bring the following documents to their appointments:

- **Picture I.D.-** and proof of citizenship for the primary applicant.
- **Social Security Cards**-or legal documentation for all household members.
- **Current Utility Bill**-A copy of the current bill for the main heating & electric source in the applicant's name, **with account numbers**. *If the bill is in a landlord's name, SELF will need a copy of the lease that shows the tenet is responsible for paying the utilities.* City of Hamilton utility customers must also bring a referral form.
- **Income for primary applicant and all household members 18 years of age or older for last 13 weeks or 12 months-** (this may include consecutive paystubs, letter from employer confirming gross income, unemployment statement, SSI award letter, VA award letter, pension, child support document, food stamp print out, etc.). *If the applicant does not have income, they must complete a **zero income statement** that explains how household expenses are being covered-or-if they are receiving assistance from a family member or friend, they must have **signed letter stating how often they are receiving assistance and the dollar amount given.** Additional information may be requested including bank statements or tax returns.*
- **Documentation of medical condition (if under 60 years of age)** - Medical notes may be issued no more than one year prior to the date of the SCP assistance application. The form should state, **"Due to an illness, this client would benefit from continued electric services and/or an air conditioner."** Also Proof of Disability is required, if disabled.

Ohioans must have a gross income at or below 175 percent of the federal poverty guidelines to qualify for assistance. For a family of four the annual income must be at or below \$42,525.00. The utility assistance payment can be used for: **current electric bills, utility account deposit, transfer of service, disconnect fees or the payment for the first PIPP Plus enrollment.** **Also please note, customers enrolled in the Percentage of Income Payment Plan Program (PIPP Plus) or who have been enrolled in the program are not eligible for bill payment assistance for the Summer Crisis Program due to state guidelines; however, they may be eligible for an air conditioner unit.**

Eligible households can receive up to \$300, if they are a customer of a regulated utility like Duke Energy, or \$500, if they are a customer of unregulated utilities such as electric cooperatives like Butler Rural

Coop and municipal utilities like the City of Hamilton. The assistance is applied to their utility bill (electric portion only) and/or applied the cost of a window air conditioner.

To qualify for an air conditioner the household must not have received a unit in the past 3 program years, applicants are not eligible if they received an air conditioner in 2013, 2014 or 2015 from the Summer Crisis Program. Additionally, clients with central AC will not qualify for a window unit. If applicants received a HUD Section 8 housing subsidy, they must bring in documentation that includes a statement that states "the air conditioner will stay with the customer if the household moves to a new residence." Please note that if a client is subject for disconnect, that a utility payment must first be applied to the account balance before an air conditioner will be approved.

For more information about the Summer Crisis Program or to schedule an appointment, contact SELF at 513-868-9300, option 1. Appointments will be held Monday through Friday at SELF's Hamilton office (1790 S. Erie Highway, Suite A-C) and on Wednesday and Fridays starting July 13 SELF's Middletown office (930 9th Ave.). SELF will also accept the first 5 walk-ins per day, who arrive at the Hamilton office by 8:30am.

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