



Development  
Services Agency

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## **Partnership Helps Ohioans Beat the Heat** *HEAP Summer Crisis Program Begins July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 ( Tuesday)*

The LEADS and Ohio Development Services Agency will help income-eligible Ohioans stay cool during the hot summer months. The Home Energy Assistance Summer Crisis Program provides eligible Ohioans assistance paying an electric bill. The program runs from July 1 until August 31, 2018.

In 2017 more than 131 families in Licking County were assisted through the Home Energy Assistance Summer Crisis Program.

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. This can include lung disease; Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease; or asthma, which affects more than 850,000 Ohioans, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Eligible households can receive up to \$300, if they are a customer of a regulated utility, or \$500, if they are a customer of unregulated utilities such as electric cooperatives and municipal utilities. The assistance is applied to their utility bill or applied to central air conditioning repair costs. 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.

Ohioans enrolled in the Percentage of Income **Payment Plan Plus Program (PIPP Plus)** or have a **PIPP Default** are not eligible for bill payment assistance through the program but are encouraged to work with LEADS to identify other opportunities for assistance.

Will start appointments on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Summer Crisis Program locally, contact Nichoal Samsal (740)258-6116 & Beverly Lees at 740-345-3133 Newark, Gary McAfee 740-928-4481 Buckeye Lake, Pataskala (740) 927-9861 Additional information can also be found at [www.energyhelp.ohio.gov](http://www.energyhelp.ohio.gov) or by calling the toll-free at (800) 282-0880.

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