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## **The State Partners with Local Organization to help Ohioans Stay Warm this Winter**

### *HEAP Winter Crisis Program Begins November 1st*

The LEADS and Ohio Development Services Agency will help eligible Ohioans stay warm during the cold winter months. The Home Energy Assistance Winter Crisis Program provides eligible Ohioans heating assistance if they are disconnected from their heating source, threatened with disconnection or they have less than 25 percent supply of bulk fuel. The program runs from November 1, 2019 until March 31, 2020.

"We want to help Ohioans stay warm this winter," said Lydia Mihalik, Director of the Ohio Development Services Agency. "Working with LEADS, we're helping Ohioans manage their energy cost this winter"

More than 868 families in Licking County were assisted through the Home Energy Assistance Winter Crisis last year.

"LEADS providing short term and long term solutions."

To qualify for the Winter Crisis Program, a household must be threatened with a disconnection, have been disconnected or have less than 25 percent supply of bulk fuel. The household must also have a gross income at or below the 175 percent of the federal poverty level. For a family of four the annual income must be at or below \$45,062.00 from November 1, 2019- March 31, 2020, more than 104,799 Ohioans were helped by the program statewide.

Individuals interested in receiving Winter Crisis assistance must have a face-to-face interview at the local LEADS Office. Customers **must bring** the following items to their appointment:

- Proof of 30 day income ( pay stubs, current award letters. Etc.)
- Copies of their most recent natural gas, electric, bulk fuel.
- Household member social security cards, photo ID's
- Proof of U.S. citizenship or legal residency for all household members.
- Lease agreement or Rental assistance verification.

Example of documents that are accepted to prove citizenship/legal residency include: a Social Security Card, Birth Certificate, U.S. Passport, naturalization paper/certification of citizenship, permanent VISA, and INS ID Card.

Ohioans without income must schedule an appointment with the local Energy Assistance Provider to apply for the programs.

For an appointment you can call the toll-free Automated Scheduler 1-833-232-1751, Monday through Friday hearing impaired customers may dial 711 for assistance or visit [www.leadscaa.org](http://www.leadscaa.org) for more information about the Winter Crisis program.