ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Crisis Intervention Program

The Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) provides financial help to households who are in a heating or cooling related emergency. Eligibility requirements are based on household composition and income. (The income limit is 150% of the Federal Poverty Level.) **The household MUST be in a heating or cooling related emergency** and must contain a U.S. Citizen or other eligible member in order to qualify for assistance.

Ashe County Department of Social Services will accept applications for CIP on November 21, 2017. Applicants must come in to apply, have a representative apply on their behalf or contact our office to request assistance with the application process.

Low Income Energy Assistance Program

The federally-funded Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) will begin December 1, 2017. LIEAP assists families with a one-time vendor payment to help pay their heating bills. To qualify for assistance, applicants must meet certain eligibility requirements based on household composition and income. (The income limit is 130% of the Federal Poverty Level.) In addition, households must also be responsible for their own heating bills and cannot have resources over $2,250. The household must also include a U.S. citizen or other eligible member.

Applicants may come in to apply, have a representative apply on their behalf or contact our office to request assistance with the application process. When applying, applicants will need to know identifying information for all household members including name, date of birth, and social security numbers. Applicants will also need to **bring verification of income for all household members** for the month prior to the month of application and any information about savings account, checking accounts, property, stocks, bonds, and other assets that anyone in the household may

During December 2017, priority will be given to households containing a person age 60 or older or disabled persons receiving a service through the DAAS (Division of Aging and Adult Services). Applications will only be taken for those meeting the specified criteria above during the month of December.

Beginning January 2nd, 2018, LIEAP will be open to all applicants and households. Applications will be taken through March 31 or until funds are exhausted.

APPLICANTS MUST PROVIDE THE VENDOR NAME AND ACCOUNT NUMBER FOR THEIR HEATING SOURCE AS WELL AS THEIR ELECTRIC ACCOUNT NUMBER. APPLICATIONS CANNOT BE PROCESSED WITHOUT THIS INFORMATION.

Applications will be taken at the Ashe County Courthouse, 150 Government Circle, in Jefferson, NC. Anyone who has questions or needs additional information regarding these programs may contact the Department of Social Services at (336) 846-5644 for assistance.