

Smiddy Encourages Residents in Need to Apply for Heating Assistance

Written by Rep. Mike Smiddy
Saturday, 26 January 2013 09:31

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PORT BYRON, IL – Winter is in full swing, and state Rep. Mike Smiddy (D—Hillsdale) is encouraging residents struggling to pay their heating bills to apply for assistance through the state’s Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Eligible households could receive reconnection assistance, emergency furnace assistance, or a one-time payment or regular assistance in paying a gas or electric bill.

“LIHEAP is a lifesaving resource for families that need a little extra help to make it through the winter,” said Smiddy. “Residents need to know that there is help out there to prevent having their heat shut off, especially as temperatures continue to drop.”

To be eligible for the program, household monthly incomes must be no greater than \$1,396 for a household of one, \$1,891 for a household of two, \$2,386 for a household of three, or \$2,881 for a household of four.

Additional income guidelines can be found at www.LIHEAPIllinois.com or by calling (877) 411-9276.

Applicants must provide proof of income for the 30-day period before the application date, a copy of their heat or electric bill issued within the previous 30 days, proof of Social Security number for every resident in the house, and documentation of assistance received through other public programs such as TANF or SNAP. Grants are issued until available funding runs out, and residents are encouraged to apply early.

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To begin the application process, residents must make an appointment with a community agency that administers the LIHEAP program. Whiteside and Carroll County residents should contact the Tri-County Opportunities Council, with 8 locations including offices in Savanna, Rock Falls, and Sterling, by calling (815) 625-7830 or the toll free number at (800) 323-5434. Henry and Rock Island County residents should contact the Project NOW administrative office at (309) 793-6391. In addition to 4 outreach offices in Rock Island, Moline, Kewanee, and Aledo, ProjectNOW hosts occasional satellite office sites in the community.

For more information, contact Smiddy's constituent services office at (309) 848-9098 or RepSmiddy@gmail.com.

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